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Palestinian Affairs

Further on 30 May Seaborne Operation

'Abbas Urges More Attacks

JN0906093390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jun 90 Second Edition p 17

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-'Abbas, by Therese Haddad—date, place of interview not given]

[Text] [Haddad] Has the al-Quds [Jerusalem] operation [30 May sea raid on the Israeli coast] served the valiant intifadah in the occupied territories, or has it harmed it?

['Abbas] The al-Quds operation was inspired by the spirit of the intifadah and was motivated by the Palestinian desire to unite the stone in the hand of the Palestinian child with the Palestinian fighter's rifle in order to achieve victory for the Palestinian people and defeat the schemes of the enemy. The intifadah cannot be separated from the al-Quds operation, which is one of the waves of the intifadah and complements it. The intifadah in turn is considered one of the waves of the Palestinian struggle that has been going on for decades.

The voice of the Palestinian mother rising from Gaza, the villages of the West Bank, and all of Palestine prompted the decision to carry out the al-Quds operation. Therefore, the al-Quds operation is a response to the call of the intifadah and embodies the Palestinian spirit of rebellion against occupation and tyranny. The al-Quds operation, without going into detail, has given the masses of the intifadah a new weapon in their confrontation and has sent the Palestinian message to the enemies of Palestine.

Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories] are one entity for the sake of Palestine. Proceeding from this fact, this heroic, vital, and imaginative operation was planned to stress the unity of our people inside the occupied homeland and in the diaspora and constitutes an effective act of support for the intifadah in the occupied homeland. It also implements our national program for confronting the Zionist enemy.

[Haddad] Has the al-Quds operation affected the Palestinian peace initiative? How will it affect the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue? And how do you view the demand that you be expelled from the PLO Executive Committee?

['Abbas] It must be said that the al-Quds operation is part of the national Palestinian action to achieve freedom and independence and defeat the enemy. Consequently, the al-Quds operation has more to do with the Palestinian will in the confrontation against the occupier than with peace and settlement initiatives. It is directly linked with the Palestinian blood that waters our pure soil as a result of the systematic Zionist terrorism and brutality with which the enemy military establishment is conducting the conflict against our people in Palestine.

This operation is not contrary to the Palestinian peace initiative endorsed by the Palestine National Council [PNC], which reaffirmed—in addition to this initiative—the need to continue struggle in all its forms, including armed struggle to achieve major Palestinian objectives and to underscore the historical facts being reaffirmed by the people struggling for their freedom and independence.

We should remember that the Palestinian peace plan, which was followed by flexible Palestinian political activity, went beyond—in some cases—the national consensus and PNC resolutions. This flexibility was met on the Israeli and American side by intransigence, arrogance, and illusory plans to gain time, such as the Baker and Shamir plans and others that do not even match the second part of the Camp David accords.

The purpose of the al-Quds operation was to end the belief that the PLO is prepared for concessions only and that the American plan to hamper the PLO has succeeded in dealing with it, and that the PLO—every day—is ready to erase a word from its national program.

The al-Quds operation is a "no" sent by the carriers of rifles and stones to every plan aimed at encroaching on the PLO's role and its national program, and to the attempts by some parties to show that the PLO's program does not approve of armed struggle. Those parties are trying to show the U.S. Administration that they can curb the use of the rifle, and they are rendering a service to American plans.

With regard to the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, although we have not taken a negative stand against this dialogue, we said a long time ago that the dialogue is part of an American-Zionist plan to hamper the PLO in order to gain additional time for the administration of the Zionist entity to end the intifadah and then concentrate on torpedoing the PLO. Therefore, we believe that neither the continuation nor noncontinuation of the dialogue contravenes our full right to fight against the Zionist enemy in Palestinian territory as long as this enemy continues to commit massacres against our people and as long the dialogue has not achieved any result in the first place. And who ever said the price of the dialogue was the halting of armed struggle? And who is authorized to make such a decision?

The issue of whether the dialogue continues or not is of absolutely no interest to us. We are neither for it nor against it.

The U.S. threat to suspend the dialogue if the PLO does not take measures against us is an act of unprecedented impudence by the U.S. Administration and confirms its total support for the Zionist enemy. This behavior shows how much the al-Quds operation has harmed U.S.-Zionist plans in our region. We must not forget that the

Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was not initiated on the basis of a Palestinian commitment to suspend armed struggle.

While the punishment the U.S. Administration wants to impose on the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], and against me personally, is a further insult by the U.S. Administration to the PLO, it also shows the soundness of the front's political line and militant policy, which stem from our Palestinian people's will. In any case, the question of whether I will remain a member of the PLO Executive Committee or not is a decision the Palestinian people should make. The Palestinian people have made their decision through the al-Quds operation and the thousands of cables and letters of solidarity, through Palestinian rejoicing in our people's camps in and outside Palestine, and through the thousands of volunteers who flocked to our offices in the first week after the operation asking to sign up to carry out the militant program.

This referendum is a medal of honor for us and a slap in the face of the U.S. Administration.

Whether I remain on the PLO Executive Committee or not will not affect the PLF's militant program. This program will continue to be implemented according to schedule, and fighting the Zionist enemy will stop only when our masses are completely victorious. We will remain committed to the PLO charter, its national program, and the resolutions adopted by successive PNC sessions. On the other hand, we will not allow any person to abandon the resolutions adopted on the basis of national consensus, or to interpret them in a manner that serves the enemies.

[Haddad] Should the al-Quds operation be seen as a new turning point in your approach toward the enemy, and can we view it as the signal for initiating the military option to put pressure on Israel?

['Abbas] There is no doubt that the al-Quds operation is a new start. We said this from the very first day of its implementation. It is no secret to say that the PLF's militant program basically depends on a clear political concept that gives precedence to armed struggle. For the past years, we were busy securing the foundations for military resurgence and for compensating for the geographic loss in military terms. The entire Arab nation knows what limitations and prohibitions are imposed on the borders. However, thanks to a meticulous program, we have managed to carry out the first phase of our program using new techniques and scientific methods. I can say that the al-Quds operation was the most difficult, because it was the initiation of our military action program. The al-Quds operation has created a breach in the Israeli defense network. Military strategists and analysts in Israel are still studying this operation and the impact it will have on future military action. One week after the operation, the Israelis are still assessing their casualties and material, moral, and human losses. I would like to repeat that the operation fulfilled its objectives. I would like to reaffirm here that most of our boats reached the shore without being spotted by the enemy, and that four out of five boats carried out the duties they had been assigned. Only one of the boats suffered technical failure and stopped five miles from the Tel Aviv shores. The sixth boat succeeded in returning safely to base according to plan. The plan originally consisted of landing only five boats. I defy the Israeli command to have the courage to announce what actually took place during the battle that raged in the northern quarter of Herzliyya and in its back streets. Our fighters reached this target, but the Israeli authorities have kept it completely secret, saying that not all the facts can be made public. I defy the enemy to tell what happened concerning the group that was arrested while on its way to Jerusalem after fierce clashes seven km from the coast on the road to Jerusalem. We are ready to publish the model of car that was used by the three comrades who are still being kept incommunicado by Israeli intelligence.

The enemy should disclose the duration of the fighting—which lasted from 2400 hours Tuesday 29 May 1990 until 1700 hours Wednesday 30 May 1990.

At any rate, this operation was communique No. 1 and future operations will be more general and more comprehensive. If the enemy claims that it detected our boats 20 miles off the Palestinian shore, we challenge it publicly now and tell it to prepare all its radar and advanced technological means in its possession, because our eagles are coming this time. If the al-Quds operation from the sea extended over an area of 80 km from the Herzliyya coast down to Tel Aviv, the next blow, which will be carried out with gliders, will cover areas in the coast, deep inside, in the North, and in the South—thousands of square kilometers inside our Palestine. This time, we will be face to face with the enemy, and let us see how its advanced technology will help it. We have eased the [enemy's] task by providing a tip here about our next plan.

[Haddad] Do you not believe that the [30 May] operation will have a dangerous effect on the situation in the region and, consequently, the Arab-Israeli conflict?

['Abbas] We advocate the military option, but we have not abandoned the political option: both options complement each other and go hand in hand.

[Haddad] To what extent will the operation affect Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine?

['Abbas] That is another issue and we will deal with it separately.

[Haddad] In your opinion, was the timing of the operation appropriate? Why did you make the operation coincide with the Arab summit and the superpower summit between Bush and Gorbachev?

['Abbas] In fact, the timing of the operation happened to be ideal. We do not take special occasions into consideration when we implement our combat program. However, honestly, the operation was expedited mainly as a retaliation for the Tel Aviv (Rishon Leziyyon) massacre.

[Haddad] What are the details of the operation? How was it executed? And how do you assess it?

['Abbas] I have already said what I can about the details of the operation. There are matters that we cannot talk about before three months have passed. These matters are related to operations security. As for the preparation, the operation was specifically born as an idea when the Zionists assassinated the prince of martyrs, Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], who believed in armed struggle and spent his life as a warrior against the Zionist enemy.

Thus, the idea was implemented. It took a long time because such an operation requires comprehensive study, accurate and continuous surveillance, and a very high standard of training, in addition to special equipment for this type of operation. Such operations should be carried out at the appropriate qualitative standard. We must say that the Palestinian brain, experience, and will have made this act possible, although we take pride in our Arab nation and the pan-Arab support extended to us in any field. Such support is no more than financial support and training sites, because our Palestinian sea is controlled by the Zionist enemy.

[Haddad] There is a widespread opinion that the operation did not achieve its objective. What is your opinion on this, and to what extent can such an operation affect Palestinian national unity within the PLO, particularly since you are on the threshold of a PNC session?

['Abbas] Who has defined the objectives of the operation for anyone to be able to say that it has not achieved its objectives? If the objective of the operation was to strike at the Israeli military establishment, then this establishment is collapsing in light of the accusations of dereliction, the investigation committees formed by the Israeli command and the Knesset, and the shameful contradictions in the Israeli statements.

If the objective of the operation was to confuse the enemy, this operation has rubbed the enemy's nose in the mud and undermined the Zionist entity's confidence in the military establishment's ability to protect the society and its security.

If the objective of the operation was to be a vital response to our revolutionary people's call, and an expression of the will of the revolution's fighters to escalate armed struggle against the enemy, and raise our people s morale, the operation has achieved this objective as well. The heroic al-Quds operation has broken the theory of Israeli security, and we refer you to the investigations of the defense forces commanders.

If the objective of the operation was to confuse the enemy economically, then observe the tourist season and read the details about it. And if the objective was to inflict human losses on the ranks of the enemy, the enemy admitted on the third day of the operation the killing of a ranking officer and three soldiers, the wounding of four others, and the destruction of a truck.

This confession is a small part of the losses; the enemy will try to find many ways to peddle the killings in front of Israeli public opinion. If the operation has not achieved its objectives, why this huge American and Israeli clamor and confusion that accompanied the operation, which is still brewing? Why is the War Ministry holding meetings and forming investigation committees? Why did the Israeli Council of Ministers hold a special meeting? And why did Shamir go personally to interrogate our brother prisoners?

[Haddad] What is your opinion on Jordanian democratic life and the return of parliamentary life? And what is your assessment of Jordanian-Palestinian relations at present?

['Abbas] The Baghdad summit really deserves the name of the summit of pan-Arab awakening. After years of deterioration, the Arab knight stood up anew and the Baghdad summit resolutions embodied the vanguard and brave spirit of confrontation in the face of the Arab nation's enemies, and tackled the nation's issues with the spirit of awakening and confrontation. Hence, we believe that the Baghdad summit and its resolutions are signs of a new stage in the common pan-Arab action.

With regard to Jordan, we view it as the first direct line of defense of the Arab nation confronting the enemy Zionist program. In the course of its democratic development, Jordan has laid down the basis of the initial defense against the enemies and has contributed—through the unity of the internal front—to an advanced role on the pan-Arab level.

We believe that the Arab nation is dutybound to give all support to Jordan as it faces its problems in the economic and defense fields, and to deter the enemy and prevent it from carrying out its plan. We also believe that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are in good shape. What is required is that these relations rise to the level of common destiny.

Israeli 'Campaign' Cited

JN0806160590 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Jun 90 p 3

[From 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr in Paris]

[Text] Well-informed Western diplomatic sources in Paris told AL-QABAS that the Israeli Government has officially informed major Western states, led by the United States, that the Palestinian fedayeen who belong to Abu-al-'Abbas' [Muhammad 'Abbas] Palestine Liberation Front, and who carried out the seaborne operation, intended to attack and break into the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The sources said that the aim of such Israeli information is to compel the U.S. Administration to make a decision to stop the dialogue with the PLO this week. In this regard, AL-QABAS has learned that information from Washington yesterday reaching an Arab state with close ties to the PLO indicates that the Bush administration has actually decided to halt the dialogue with the PLO, and that it has informed the Palestinian leadership of its decision. When AL-QABAS asked Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah leadership and chairman of the

Foreign Relations Committee in the Palestine National Council, who is currently in Paris, whether the United States has in fact made such a decision, he said: "Yes, we have received information that the U.S. Administration has actually made such a decision, but the Palestinian leadership has thus far not been officially informed of this decision."

Let us begin with the Israeli campaign. AL-QABAS has learned from well-informed Western diplomatic sources in Paris that the Israeli Government sent "a detailed report" to several major Western states, including the United States, informing them about what it calls "confessions" by the fedayeen detained by the Israelis following the failure of Abu-al-'Abbas' seaborne operation near Tel Aviv. The report contains what Israel considers to be "evidence, facts, and information" about the "real aims" of this operation. Western diplomatic sources told AL-QABAS that the Israeli report placed particular emphasis on the point that the fedayeen had intended to "attack and break into" the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to kill staff or take them hostage and bargain over them with the U.S. and Israeli authorities. The Israeli report says that the attack on the U.S. Embassy was "one of the main aims" of the Abu-al-'Abbas operation. The report also included Israeli "information" about "sides and forces" that had actually been behind this operation.

The Western diplomatic sources are of the view that this Israeli "information" is particularly aimed at putting pressure on the Bush administration to "stop" hesitating, and at forcing it to make a quick decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO. The same sources noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wants the administration to make such a decision this week, before the formation of the Israeli Government and its proclamation next week. The sources explained that the Israeli officials intend to divulge detailed information about this fedayeen operation and its aims to "mobilize" the U.S. public opinion against the PLO and its leadership.

Meanwhile, a state that is close to the PLO received information from Washington yesterday to the effect that the U.S. Administration has actually decided to halt the dialogue with the PLO and that it has either informed the PLO of this decision or decided to inform it "as soon as possible." Based on this information, it seems the United States has decided to halt the dialogue with the PLO but has left the door open to resuming the dialogue if the PLO leadership takes the necessary measures to expel Abu-al-'Abbas from the PLO Executive Committee membership.

Furthermore, based on this information, the Bush administration will not retreat from its determination to expel Abu-al-'Abbas from the PLO Executive Committee membership.

AL-QABAS raised this issue with Khalid al-Hasan, also known as Abu-al-Sa'id, who is currently visiting Paris. AL-QABAS told him of what it has on the U.S. decision. Asked if the PLO leadership has received such information and if the Bush administration informed it of its decision to halt the dialogue, al-Hasan said: "Yes, we received information to the effect that the Bush administration has actually made a decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO and that it is currently 'drafting' this decision before announcing it officially. However, the Palestinian leadership has so far not been officially informed of this decision by the Bush administration, and we have not received any letter or memo from the U.S. Administration on this matter."

In his exclusive dialogue with AL-QABAS, Khalid al-Hasan added: "Let us be frank. If, for example, the Bush administration decided to stop dialogue with the PLO, then by doing so it would deal a blow to the peace process and lay the ground for exploding the situation in the region. The Palestinian message that we address to the Bush administration is as follows: The Palestinian people cannot be dealt with through humiliation and peace can only be achieved on the basis of dignity and justice."

Khalid al-Hasan added: "It would be better for us to stop the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue that has been continuing since December 1988 instead of continuing it, because it was not a real dialogue and because we believe that the real dialogue between the United States and the PLO has not yet begun. This dialogue was something like estrangement and our situation with the Americans was 'neither married nor divorced, but something in between.' Had the Americans opted for official divorce, this would have been better for us. The real dialogue is not merely an exchange of letters or a meeting between two ambassadors in the same state, as is the present case between us and the United States. As Palestinian officials, we were prevented from meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Paris, London, Cairo, or in any capital other than Tunis. If we had to request an appointment with a U.S. State Department official, we used to receive the following reply: The only channel of communication with the PLO is through U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau. So, what kind of dialogue is this? How can the U.S. ambassador meet with the Palestinian ambassador in Tunis and at the same time not be authorized to meet with President Yasir 'Arafat? This is not a serious dialogue and it is not the dialogue we want in any case."

We asked Khalid al-Hasan: What is the nature of the dialogue the Palestinian leadership wants to hold with the United States? He answered: "The dialogue we want to hold with the United States must be an open dialogue in the full sense of the word—open to discussion of all issues and topics, not just the issues that the Americans like to discuss. We want this dialogue to be held in all states and capitals. We want it to be on all levels, not only on the two ambassadors' level. This is why we say it is better not to continue with the current dialogue, and to resume this dialogue with the United States one day on a new and solid basis."

Khalid al-Hasan said the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue "cannot be stopped forever, because the Middle East issue is in a constant flow. It is an issue of peace or war. Therefore, estrangement cannot continue forever. I do not know what the U.S. officials' plans are. Perhaps they will not want to act seriously until a war or military confrontation has erupted in the region. In any case, the decision to stop dialogue with the PLO is not a peace decision; it paves the way for exploding the situation in the region."

Khalid al-Hasan criticized U.S. political actions and positions, saying: The U.S. problem is that "it practices one thing and preaches another, and calls for balance while at the same time adopting an unbalanced policy in the region. He added: "Perhaps the current crisis will teach the Arabs a lesson—that they should not give anything to the United States before succeeding in obtaining their own demands."

AL-QABAS asked Khalid al-Hasan about the Palestinian leadership's opinion of the U.S. condition to expel Abu-al-'Abbas from the PLO Executive Committee in return for resuming the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He answered: "First, we do not expel anyone just to appease the United States. The Palestinian people are strugglers, have dignity, and cannot be treated in this way. This demand clearly shows the U.S. arrogance of force."

In another development, Khalid al-Hasan met in Paris with Michel Fauzel (name as published), chairman of the French National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee. Ibrahim al-Sus, head of the Palestinian legation office in France, attended the meeting. AL-QABAS has learned that the Palestinian delegation demanded that the French parliament dispatch a French parliamentary delegation, comprising representatives of all parties and political forces, to the West Bank and Gaza to acquaint itself with the real situation there and the Palestinian people's sufferings as a result of the brutal and repressive Israeli measures. Fauzel promised to study this proposal and to discuss it with the competent authorities, stressing the need for peaceful actions and efforts to put an end to the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Algeria

PSD Condemns Attack on Secretary General

LD1006140290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The crisis in the PSD [Social Democratic Party] continues to simmer, especially as the issue of the split in its two wings or parties remains unsettled. Abderrahmane Adjerid held a press conference today which, so it seems, was organized to expose aggressive practices. Here is our correspondent:

[Correspondent] The leader of the party, Mr. Adjerid, began the press conference by reading out a condemnation statement in which he disclosed an attack on 6 June on the car and the home of the party secretary general Abdelkader Bouzar. Here is the text of the statement as read by Mr. Adjerid:

The president of the party and the political leadership condemn the 6 June attack on Abdelkader Bouzar, party secretary general. An explosion took place at his home. His car exploded and was totally destroyed. There are indications that the matter concerns a criminal attack against his person. Therefore, the leadership asks the government to begin an investigation to discover who is responsible in order to find out the truth about the incident, keeping in mind that this incident followed the attack on the deputy chairman of the Human Rights League. [passage omitted]

Paper Gives Details of Abortive Coup Attempt

JN0706151090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Jun 90 pp 1, 22

[Text] Paris, AL-ANBA'—Informed sources have told AL-ANBA' that a coup attempt took place in Algeria last month, but did not succeed, and that most of those who carried it out were executed.

Regarding the details of the abortive attempt, the sources said that on 2 May the residents of Ed Douira, a region 20 kilometers from the capital Algiers, were surprised by the sound of bullets coming from the Presidential Palace—the palace where former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella was imprisoned. The residents also saw a number of injured people being taken to the hospital.

It was later revealed that several officers and noncommissioned officers managed to penetrate the residence of President Chadli Bendjedid. However, the president was not in the palace at that time; he was in one of the Oran palaces.

The sources added: The group was heading toward the palace warehouse in order to seize weapons. As soon as they opened the door of the warehouse, however, they met with heavy gunfire which killed some of them, while others survived.

Four days later, the sources added, several members of this group were arrested and immediately executed.

The source wondered how did this group managed to infiltrate the palace without anyone discovering them, and why they were immediately shot without being subjected to a thorough investigation.

It is noteworthy that Algeria at the time denied reports on attempts to assassinate President Bendjedid.

Egypt

Commentary Views Makeup of New Israeli Government

NC1006153990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Shamir's Proposed Government Is a Natural Outcome of the Israeli Rejectionist Philosophy"]

[Text] It is better and more useful to discuss facts without embellishment and without confusing reality with our hopes of what we wish to be. For this reason, it would not be correct merely for us to state that one should look on the makeup of the Israeli Government as one of the most hardline since the establishment of Israel or see that this or that party describes it as a national catastrophe. This lacks an objective understanding of all that is happening inside Israel.

In order not to lose sight of the facts or confuse the details, we state that we know that Yitzhaq Shamir—and the Israeli leaders who support him and who do not conceal their positions or profess public stands that differ from their private ones—is the master of the political situation in Israel. Those who maneuver around him are not able to declare their true stands. When the coalition government collapsed, none of Shamir's opponents succeeded in forming a new government. Shamir's political philosophy is based on the following points: No PLO, no establishment of a Palestinian state, no dividing of Jerusalem, no Palestinian self-determination, and no complete withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He says yes to granting the citizens of the occupied Arab territories the right to life under the aegis of Israeli law and sovereignty. In light of these conditions which Shamir believes are the minimum requirement for Israeli security, all attempts to drive the peace process forward have failed. It is sufficient to note that the Reagan plan, despite the fact that Reagan was given much credit for protecting Israel's interests, found not one Israeli ear that would listen to it. It collapsed, and not one Israeli took the U.S. President's dignity into account. The initiative of U.S. Secretary of State Baker is not faring any better.

The Israeli Government is maneuvering to absorb the U.S. insistence on making Baker's initiative succeed and has so far succeeded in circumventing it. We believe that the intentional procrastination in forming a new Israeli Government is designed to ease U.S. pressures. According to Israeli calculations, current international circumstances constitute a golden opportunity for Israel

to gain new positions. If it succeeds in maneuvering around Baker's initiative, it will achieve a victory more substantial than the establishment of Israel itself in 1948.

If we again look at the makeup of Shamir's new government, we will find that it is a logical step along the path of traditional Israeli hardline policies. We will also discover that the timing of this governmental makeup, following many weeks of political party maneuvering designed to escape a confrontation with a U.S. Administration which wants to promote the peace process and conduct a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, can been attributed to the recent Soviet warnings. In these, President Gorbachev demanded Israeli guarantees that Soviet Jews would not be settled in the occupied Arab territories. If these were not received, he would reconsider issuing exit visas to the Soviet Jews.

It is clear that the Israeli leaders took President Gorbachev's remarks very seriously, particularly after he asserted in statements made in the heart of the U.S. capital, that his Arab friends are dismayed by this Soviet stand. Hence Shamir hastened to form a new government. It is sufficient to note that he chose Ariel Sharon to head the Ministries of Construction and Housing and Immigrant Absorption. This means that Israel placed the responsibility for settling Soviet Jews and building settlements in the hands of its most hardline individual.

Actually the entire Israeli position is a natural one and is in agreement with Israeli strategy. When Israel faces no international power that firmly asks it to adhere to international legitimacy, it will naturally go to extremes in defying all the forces of peace.

We would like to say that by some recent U.S. gestures, Israel found encouragement to pursue a hardline policy harmful to peace. For instance, the U.S. veto was an unexpected move by the Bush administration because it gave Shamir the chance to catch his breath and move ahead, defying the United States itself. Moreover, the current talk in U.S. corridors of power about the need to halt the dialogue with the PLO can only mean that what Shamir advocates against the PLO and the Palestinian people is not being considered entirely wrong.

All that is required of the Arabs and non-Arabs is to look on the crisis of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the perspective of respecting legitimacy and opposing aggression concerning the rights of others. There is more than one method in which one can deal with this conflict if the intentions are sincere, the outlook is clear, and the objectives are well-defined.

'Abd-al-Majid Returns From Paris Visit 9 Jun

NC0906073890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo from Paris this morning, following a week-long visit to France.

While there, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid took part in the international seminar on desertification and drought in Africa and the Sahel, which was concluded in Paris on Thursday 7 June. At the seminar, he delivered a speech on behalf of President Mubarak.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid met with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, handed him a message from President Mubarak, and briefed him on Egypt's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and Africa.

Receives Israeli Ambassador, Message

NC1006150690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Israeli Ambassador Shim'on Shamir today.

Following the meeting, the Israeli ambassador said that it was held at the Israeli Embassy's request in order for a message from Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to be delivered to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid. The message dealt with the current Middle East situation in the wake of the Baghdad Arab summit.

Shamir added that the message also aims to clarify the Israeli position on the Baghdad summit's final statement, particularly with regard to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, the intifadah, and other issues. The Israeli ambassador said that the message contains Israel's reaction to the Baghdad summit's final statement.

On the policies of the new Israeli Government, the ambassador remarked that this government has not yet been formed and that the existing government is a caretaker one. He added that several procedures are still needed before the new government is officially formed.

Answering a question on the continued tension in the Middle East as a result of Israeli actions, the Israeli ambassador said that the only way to end the tension is by dialogue and continuing the peace process. He asserted that the Israeli Government is committed to the peace initiative it announced on 14 May 1989 and is determined to resume the peace process.

He explained that the Israeli initiative provides for moving toward a peaceful solution by holding a dialogue with the Palestinians. He said that the first stage would be to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza followed by a dialogue with the Palestinians about the transitional period. He added that this would be followed by another dialogue with the Palestinians about the final stage. He said that this means that the principle of dialogue exists.

Court Releases 'Abd-Al-Nasir on Bail 7 Jun

NC0706150290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court today resumed the trial of the defendants in

the Egypt's Revolution case. Present at today's session was Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir, the second defendant in the case who arrived in Cairo last night and turned himself in to the police, who arrested him in accordance with the public prosecutor's decision. 'Abd-al-Nasir appeared in the defendants' dock at today's session. The prosecution announced that all defendants in the case were present in the session. 'Abd-al-Nasir's defense attorney demanded that his client be released.

At the end of its five-hour session, the court decided to release Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir on bail of 5,000 Egyptian pounds and ordered him not to leave the country until a verdict in the case is announced. The court also decided to continue hearing to the defense's summation tomorrow, Saturday, and to remand in custody all defendants held in connection with the case.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks to Education Staff Meeting

Questions Religious Rule

LD0810092590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at meeting of the staff of the general education sector broadcast over closed circuit television on 7 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] Good morning, people from Misrata and Banghazi. How are you? I am o.k., thank you. In the name of God. I have already spoken to a number of people about today's subject. I am talking about education. I addressed the teachers or students general congress. Anyhow, I talked to some people present here today. [passage omitted]

This is the era of the masses. All the masses strive for power, and there is a seriousness in achieving this authority. Strong parties have crumbled under the feet of the masses marching toward power. However, these masses were wrongly repelaced by the multiparty system. It is one way for the masses to reach power, but it is merely a step on the path toward people's power. The several parties will fail and will be replaced by people's congresses and committees. However, the peoples do not yet understand the meaning of people's congresses and committees and consequently they still live in chaos, anarchy, and fear.

The Jamahiriyah is the real model for solving the political, economic, and social problems in people's lives. [passage omitted]

Certain religious groups have emerged in some countries, especially Arab countries. However, these groups have arrived too late. There were some sincere revolutionary parties and movements that were working in the interest of the masses, yet the masses did not accept them and toppled them, because the masses want to rule themselves by themselves.

Given this situation, what can one say about some religious group who rule the people in the name of God and cut their heads off in the name of God? First of all, even in normal cases, and not in the era of the masses, even in the era of the Italians, religious groups were forbidden. People refuse to be ruled by religious movements, because all the people can be religious and religion belongs to all the people. Therefore, no group can claim that they are the guardian of religion and the rest are unbelievers and should bow to this group. This is what is happening now in some Arab countries. The fact that some religious groups have not been granted official recognition by the authorities is because the people have protested and said we are all Muslims so how can that group claims that it is Muslim and we are unbelievers, like the al-Takfir wa al-Hijra movement that you have heard about. It is in Egypt and in some Arab countries. We found some of them in Jdabiya and Misrata, as we told you before. They claimed that the people of Misrata, Jdabiya, and Banghazi were unbelievers while they were the real Muslims. We should leave them alone. They travelled about 20 km from Jdabiya and claimed that it was an emigration from sin. We should go back to Jdabiya and fight those people so that we may get access to heaven. Who can accept such a thing? Everybody is a Muslim. There is no more religious people in the Muslim world than the Egyptian people. [passage omitted]

Such religious groups behave like the Mafia. Apart from the jamahiri system, who in the world can say that Italy is a dictatorship? In the West they consider it a democracy. However, does Italy allow the Red Brigades to operate? They consider them terrorists and should be destroyed wherever they may be. Red Brigade members are sentenced to life imprisonment. Does Italy allow the Mafia to operate? Do they say Italy is a dictatorship because it does not allow the Red Brigades to operate? They consider these Red Brigades as apostate and out to destroy democratic society. They consider the Mafia to be a destroyer of societies and that it should be annihilated.

In the West, Britain is considered to be the mother of democracy. Does it allow the IRA [Irish Republican Army] to operate? It pursues them everywhere, and kills its military members. Is Britain a dictatorship in the eyes of the West because it does not allow the IRA to express itself? No! And despite its use of weapons against these groups, despite imprisoning their members and killing them, even those in Gibraltar who raised their hands and surrendered to the police—the British police opened fire and shot them dead. There was some protest over this operation but it passed. Does this mean that Britain is a dictatorship because it kills a group that expresses its opinion and decides for itself? The West considers Britain a democracy despite all these acts.

The charlatan groups such Da'wah, Jihad, al-Takfir, al-'Ikhwan, and al-Tahir are like the Mafia or the Red

Brigades in Italy, and the IRA in Britain, or like the drugs bands in Latin America who are being chased by the police.

Generally speaking, all of these emerging movements are destroying Islam from within. They are destroying pan-Arabism and the body of the Arab nation. The danger of such movements is similar to that of the Zionist entity or the crusades or imperialism. They represent a danger to Arab existence. They threaten this existence. None of us would accept the accusation of being nonmuslim nor do we need a group like the Muslim Brotherhood or Islamic Liberation Call to judge us nor even to show us his religion. [passage omitted]

They are against freedom. Everyone should dress according to the way these groups dictate, that people must live in obscurity. According to them, women have no presence nor significance—they are treated like goods for buying and selling. These groups believe in concubines, harems. According to them, women have lost their humanity. They consider them as goods and means of pleasure. They are being used by exploiters, feudalists, and crooks. Women are extremely harrassed in some Arab countries. I told you about a special recording on this issue—I do not know whether Libyan radio has broadcast it or not. The radio interviewed some women in the street who stated that last Ramadan was a bleak month for them. When they were asked why, they said those groups harrassed us. We do not feel free anymore and we do not feel safe at home. In fact, this is a serious disease. Those religious groups think that they can take power in our society and then hand it over to the United States. This is the era of the masses despite all their ethics. They are harming religion and pan-Arabism. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports Address

LD0706125390 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The revolutionary leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the masses' era, spoke this morning, via closed circuit [as heard], to the staff of the general education sector of the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

From his role of incitement and of guiding the masses toward assuming their authority, practicing people's authority, and building the real people's Jamahiriyah, the brother leader talked about the way to build the new Jamahiriyah. The brother leader, at the beginning of his speech, noted the steps which have been achieved in the building of the Jamahiriyah in which the Libyan Arab people's masses acquired their authority, wealth, and weapons. The leader reaffirmed that there is a serious effort to move toward authority in all parts of the world, pointing out that plurality of parties is nothing but a step, and a sign of the masses' reaching power, and that the masses will join people's congresses after these parties fail.

Lebanese President Al-Hirawi Arrives 7 June

LD0706123790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1216 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 7 Jun (JANA)—President Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Lebanese Republic, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli before noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Lebanese president was given an official welcome by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, and other officials at Tripoli International Airport. [passage omitted]

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0706132490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] received at noon today President Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the fraternal Republic of Lebanon and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Dr. Salim al-Huss, prime minister of fraternal Lebanon, and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee.

Jallud, Al-Hirawi on Mutual Support

LD0806010890 Tripoli JANA in English 1615 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al Sayf [June] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud gave a statement today to the press delegation accompanying president Ilyas al-Hirawi of Lebanon who arrived just before noon today in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah. Expressing his welcoming for the visit of President al-Hirawi to Great Jamahiriya by saying "Such a visit is an important opportunity to exchange views in view of what has Lebanon in the conscious of every Arab. [as received] Brother the leader Mu"mmar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people follow with great pain the suffering and the tragedies suffered by the Arab people of Lebanon which had sacrificed for its nation and paid every dear things for that."

Staff Major Jallud called upon the Arab nation to stand by the side of Lebanon and President al-Hirawi and to bear the historical responsibility in a Lebanese-Arab-international circumstances that is experiencing developments which must reflects on the Lebanese situation and the Arab situation.

Staff Major Jallud said "By the standing of the Arab nation behind President al-Hirawi and the legitimate government Lebanon will be able to rebuild itself and emerge strong. We in Great Jamahiriyah will carry out our role in full to accomplish the goals for which President al-Hirawi and the Lebanese Government are struggling."

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers Jamahiri to Lebanon

LD0906103590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1503 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has called on the Arab people in Lebanon to rely on themselves and resolve their problems themselves. He said: I am offering the Jamahiri system [of government] as a gift to the Lebanese people.

In a statement to the team of journalists accompanying [Lebanese] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the brother leader indicated that the solution to the Lebanese problem that would help our brethen in Lebanon get out of this impasse lay in the establishment of the Jamahiri system and the setting up of people's congresses and people's committees. He added that the Jamahiri system is the best suited system for a multiconfessional and multiracial country (?because) the Jamahiri system blocked the way of all foreign interventions in Lebanon since there is, in the Jamahiriyah, no president, no prime minister, and no ministers, and consequently no quarrels over the distribution of these posts.

Al-Hirawi Ends Visit 8 Jun

LD0806220790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1538 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 8 Jun (JANA)—President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the president of the sister Republic of Lebanon, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli today at the end of their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

In a statement made to JANA before leaving Tripoli, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said; "My visit to the Great Libyan Jamahiriyah during which I met with brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was one of the best visits during my tour in the Arab homeland. I also became certain that the sister Great Jamahiriyah shared Lebanon's aspirations and ambitions to be again an active element within the Arab nation as it used to be in the past."

The president of the sister Republic of Lebanon added: "We concurred with each other on all the aspirations of the great Arab cause. Therefore I must thank the brother leader of the revolution and the brotherly Libyan Arab people with the hope that this relationship will grow stronger and deepen for the benefit of the Arab nation."

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Visiting Somali President

LD1006230390 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] this evening received Mohamed Siad Barre, president of sister Republic of Somalia. The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, brother Muhammad 'Ali Hamud, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the ambassador of Somalia to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of sister Republic of Somalia, arrived with the accompanying delegation today in Tripoli on a visit to the great jamahiriyah.

A great official welcoming ceremony was accorded to the Somali president where Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was at the forefront of those who welcomed him. Brothers secretary and members of the General People's Committees, secretary and members of the People's Committee for Tripoli and a number of the militarized people's officers and diplomatic corps in the Great Jamahiriyah as well as the ambassador and members of staff of the Somali Embassy also took part in the welcoming ceremony. [video shows the official welcoming ceremony]

Major Jallud Stresses Strategic Industries

LD1006082690

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 2004 GMT on 9 June broadcasts an 86-minute recording of a speech by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud to workers in the strategic industries sector. Jallud begins by saying that al-Qadhdhafi would have liked to chair the meeting himself, but he is so busy that he could not find the time. He goes on to say that strategic industries, that is, iron and steel, tires, tractors, trucks, cement, cars, aluminum, petrochemicals etc, are a very important sector in the national economy. They are the responsibility of the people's committees in them, and they should be run in a rational way to be enable them to face up to the challenges of the time and defeat underdevelopment. Millions of dollars are spent on the development of this sector, and the people's comittees will shoulder the responsibility for any failure.

Every industrial sector, he continues, should be represented in the people's committees so that the autonomous management of these industries will be as democratic as possible. No one will be appointed by bodies outside the people in the sectors concerned. Workers are absolutely free to elect whom they want in these people's committees. The main criteria are qualifications and efficiency.

The era of the jamahiriyah puts an end to the representation of the people by members of parliament, or governments, or trade unions, Jallud says. The people should run itself by itself. The workers' success in the sector of strategic industries will confirm the rightness of the jamahiri theory. You should all be behind any decision made, so that errors can be avoided and great support acquired.

Some members of the audience interrupt Jallud during his speech to ask questions or clarifications.

JANA Urges Arab Unity Against U.S.

LD1006135990 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] The American war minister [as heard] has announced that his country will continue development of the American-Zionist (?Shift) anti-missile missile which is provided for in the strategic defence—Star Wars—budget.

The enemy radio quoted the minister as saying that the U.S. administration believes that continuation of the development of the missile is a vital matter, irrespective of the agreements concluded to limit development of strategic weapons.

On this U.S. declaration and its significance, the JANA political editor comments: The timing of the announcement on the development of the American-Zionist (?Shift) missile, right after the emergency Arab summit in Baghdad, confirms that the American-Zionist military establishment wants this to be an indirect response to the unified Arab stand that appeared at the Baghdad summit.

By his announcement, circulated by the Zionist information media and echoed by Western quarters, the American war minister wants to loudly proclaim that the Zionists are not alone, but that America, with its technology, stands at their side on confronting the unified Arab stand.

The editor further says: The strategic alliance between America and the Zionist enemy is a matter of fact. It requires neither confirmation nor proof. America, which now threatens to halt even a dialogue with the PLO, is one that stands politically on the side of the Zionists in the international arena, and uses its right of veto against any UN resolution condemning the Zionist crimes against the Arab people in occupied Palestine.

The editor goes on to say: The Zionists daily commit savage massacres against the Arab Palestinian people, like the massacres of Kfar Qasim, Deyr Yasin, the Bahr al-Baqar school, Sabra and Shatila, and the massacre of 'Ain Qura where scores of people were killed and hundreds wounded. But America, which falsely pretends to protect human rights, is not touched by Arab bloodshed at a time when we see it raising a hue and cry when Arab Palestinians undertake a fedayeen operation against the Zionist invaders, or when the emergency Arab summit in Baghdad releases a communique reflecting a unified Arab attitude.

The JANA political editor concludes his comment by stressing that the U.S. position is clear and needs no explanation: America is constantly hostile to the Arab nation, and will never be otherwise, and the attitude required by this absolute enmity is all-Arab unity, because unity is the thing that frightens America, and unity can abort any colonialist conspiracy. Unity is also the rock against which are dashed the Zionist dreams of expansion and aggression. The force of the Arab nation cannot be repelled or defeated if will, wealth, and human potentials are unified, and if a unified Arab state is set up from the ocean to the gulf.

TV Reports Government Portfolio Allocations

TA0806200690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1812 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran has learned that the government will have 30 ministers and deputy ministers, which is half the coalition members. Here is a partial list of the government members, which might still change before it is finally announced on Sunday at the Likud Central Committee.

First, Likud ministers: David Levi, foreign minister; Moshe Arens, defense minister; Ari'el Sharon, construction and housing minister and minister in charge of immigrant absorption; Moshe Nisim, industry and trade minister; Yitzhaq Moda'i, finance minister; Dan Meridor, justice minister; Moshe Qatzav, transportation minister; Roni Milo, police affairs minister; Ehud Olmert, health minister; Gid'on Pat, tourism minister; David Magen, minister without portfolio.

Avner Sciaki of the NRP [National Religious Party], religious affairs minister; Zvulun Hammer [NRP], education and culture minister; Rabbi Arye Der'i of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], interior minister; Rabbi Refa'el Pinhasi [SHAS], communications minister; Professor Yuval Ne'eman [Tehiya], science and technology minister; Refa'el Eytan [Tzomet], agriculture minister; Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, immigrant absorption minister; labor and social affairs portfolio still unknown.

The following will most likely be deputy ministers: Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy defense minister; Pinhas Goldstein, deputy transportation minister [both from the Likud]; Eli'ezer Mizrahi [Agudat Yisra'el], deputy health minister; Rabbi Avraham Ravitz [Degel Hatora], deputy construction and housing minister; Rabbi Moshe Gafni [Degel Hatora], deputy education and culture minister; Rabbi Refa'el Pinhasi or Rabbi Yosef 'Azran [SHAS], deputy interior minister; Ge'ula Kohen [Tehiya], deputy economic and planning minister; Efrayim Gur, who crossed over from the Alignment, deputy minister in the communications ministry; Yig'al Bibi [NRP], deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

Shamir Meets With MK's, Rejects Portfolios

TA1006114790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1055 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Text] The prime minister has held meetings with Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Sharir and MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera. He advised both MK's that he will not include them in either the new government he is to present to the Knesset tomorrow, nor on the list of ministers to be read out at the Likud Central Committee meeting at 1700 tonight. Sharir was told by the prime minister that, although he has been wronged, he, the prime minister, cannot include him in the government at this stage. In the future he will endeavor to include Sharir in the government. But, as we said, Sharir is out just now.

MK Avraham Sharir told us: I demand that the promise given to me be made good tomorrow with the presentation of the government; we never said anything about my becoming a member in some future government.

In reply to our question as to what he will do at the vote of confidence in the government tomorrow, MK Sharir refused to commit himself, saying: I have time until tomorrow to decide.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 June reports that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has rejected the Rafi-Ometz faction's demand to appoint MK Yiga'el Hurvitz as a minister." The report adds that on leaving the meeting with Mr. Shamir, MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera said that he has an old written promise to make him a cabinet minister. He added that if this promise does not materialize, he is liable to refrain from supporting the Likud government at the vote of confidence tomorrow."]

NRP Votes in Favor of Joining New Government

TA1006143890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] A short time ago, the NRP [National Religious Party] Central Committee, convened at the Nehalim Yeshiva, voted in favor of joining the new government.

In the meeting, NRP Secretary Rabbi Yitzhaq Levi said that the Likud's commitments to the NRP include legislation of the Authorization Law [whereby municipalities would be given authority to decide on the opening of places of entertainment on the Sabbath], freedom of vote on issues pertaining to electoral reform, and the opening of schools for six days a week.

A melee broke out at the end of the vote when Central Committee member Efi Kohen rose to protest that he was not included among the candidates for the post of deputy minister.

Likud MK's: Shamir Cannot Count on Support

TA1006142790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Zalman Shoval and Yiga'el Hurvitz, Knesset members for the Rafi-Ometz faction, today told the prime minister that he cannot count them among those supporting his government. They insist on the appointment of a minister on behalf of their faction.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a final decision on how they will vote in tomorrow's vote of confidence in the Knesset will be made in a meeting of Rafi-Ometz secretariat tomorrow.

Shuval and Hurvitz argue that an appointment of a minister on their behalf does not require the approval of

the Likud Central Committee because they are an independent faction within the Likud.

It is not yet clear how Aharon Abu-Hatzera and Avraham Sharir, the two other Knesset members who were refused ministerial portfolios by the prime minister, will vote tomorrow in the Knesset.

The Likud Central Committee is currently convened in Tel Aviv to approve the composition of the new government.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1405 GMT on 10 June adds: "It has been learned from the Prime Minister's Office that Shamir will not come to the Knesset tomorrow to present his government unless he is assured of a majority."]

Likud Ministers Approve Composition of Government

TA1006161190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] This evening the Likud Central Committee approved, by an almost absolute majority, the composition of Yitzhaq Shamir's new government. A few hands were raised against it, including those of Herzliyya Mayor Eli Landau and those of two female delegates.

Tehiya Central Committee Endorses Coalition

TA1006175790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] The Tehiya party's Central Committee this evening endorsed the Tehiya coalition agreement with the Likud. Tehiya members criticized Labor and left-wing parties' strong opposition to the new government, saying it will increase political pressure on Israel from abroad.

Labor Says Coalition Agreement 'National Disaster'

TA0806162990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] The Labor Party said that an agreement for national disaster was signed today. It said that this government's principles and policies are contrary to the interests of the State of Israel and its inhabitants. The Labor Party announcement also said that the new government is the most anti-Israeli ever established. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Alignment has it made clear that it will try to set up a pro-Israeli alternative to the Shamir government.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen adds two more reactions by Knesset factions. The Citizens Rights Movement believes that the new government might bring about a harsh war, but might also lead to the public getting wise to the right-wing saber rattling.

MAPAM [United Workers Party] believes that the peace process, economic growth, and immigrant absorption will have to wait until this government disappears from the face of the earth.

Peres Sees New Government Becoming 'Problem'

TA0806204690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1812 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Hayim Plattner—live]

[Text] [Plattner] Good evening, Mr. Peres. After extended negotiations, the way was paved today for a rightist government. The Alignment might sit for a long time on the opposition benches. It is probably a hard day for you and the Labor Party.

[Peres] No. For me the policy, rather than the government, is the main issue. The moment Mr. Shamir disbanded the peace process the government itself became unimportant. We talk all the time about the disbanding of the government, but the disbanding of the peace process is what is important. Three, four months ago, Israel had an extraordinary opportunity to show the world that it is initiating peace, improve its international status, and build up resources to absorb immigrants. Look what happened in the ensuing months since the peace process was disbanded. There are not two voices, only a single voice. Nobody is preventing Shamir and Arens from doing whatever they wish. Look how the country has needlessly deteriorated within two, three months.

[Plattner] Mr. Peres, as the person who initiated the disbanding of the government, a move which in fact led to the establishment of a rightist government today, perhaps you failed personally in the entire process? You disbanded a government and did not advance the peace process.

[Peres] I reiterate, in my view the issue is the disbanding of the peace process, which brought about the dissolution of the government. I do not see a big difference between a narrow rightist government and a wide-based rightist government. Had we stayed, we would have remained in a wide-based rightist government, but without a peace process.

[Plattner] How do you view the new government? Do you believe it will be capable of meeting the difficult challenges of aliyah and security?

[Peres] No, I believe that the new government is not one that will solve problems, it is one that will become a problem. There will be a continuous struggle from within among deputy ministers, ministers, and different positions. It will have no energy left to deal with the main issues. It also does not have a real policy, and I very much regret to see such a government.

[Plattner] What in your view is to be expected in advancing peace moves?

[Peres] Based on this government's composition, nothing really. I do not foresee an alternative initiative to the one that existed, and I do not foresee the resumption of the old initiative since a negative response was given on the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

and conditions were imposed which I do not think will be accepted by anybody besides ourselves.

[Plattner] There are those who claim, based on the precedent of the peace accord with Egypt, that a rightist government, perhaps under the leadership of the Likud, will be able to make greater achievements, greater concessions, than an Alignment government during negotiations with the Arabs.

[Peres] Al-Sadat is not 'Arafat, and 'Arafat is not al-Sadat; Sinai is not Judaea and Samaria; and Shamir is not Begin. There is an enormous difference among those three components. In my view, Mr. Shamir himself is a prisoner of all who led him to set up this government, or if you prefer, who had earlier brought him to the end of the peace process.

[Plattner] Do you believe that this government will become stalemated within a short time, that it will not last long?

[Peres] I would not like to predict how long it will survive. I would only like to say to Labor Party members and others that the Labor Party is now in a difficult situation, but we will extricate ourselves. The Labor Party, after a very long interruption, will become a serious alternative, and we will show that Israel has an alternative path. A path that does not believe in war but peace, aliyah, immigrant absorption. It would have been so easy for the country to free itself of its hardships. That is what hurts.

[Plattner] To conclude, Mr. Peres, do you believe that something can still happen before Monday, the date the government is supposed to be presented to the Knesset?

[Peres] I do not count on miracles.

[Plattner] Is there any chance for a unity government, in your view?

[Peres] It does not interest me. What interests me is the resumption of the peace process. I believe Mr. Shamir stopped it. I do not believe he has an alternative to it. I believe we are entering a superfluous dispute with the rest of the world. I believe we unnecessarily give our enemies excuses, and make our own lives harder. That is what is important. Governments are meant to implement policy, not be the alternative to a policy. The Labor Party would have sinned had it said: I do not see, I do not hear, nothing interests me, the main point is to remain in the government. That we could not do. I believe there is an alternative for ourselves and the country. By the way, I must say that many in the Likud also feel as I do today. I do not feel joy about this; what is there to be happy about? I know that there were people in the Likud, even among members of this government, who supported giving Baker an affirmative response.

Shamir Discusses Establishment of Government

Gives News Conference

TA0806132490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Announcement and impromptu news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during ceremony presenting the coalition agreement and the government's basic guidelines at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Gentlemen, ministers, members of the Knesset, heads of factions and honorable guests,

This ceremony of signing the basic guidelines of the government, which will take office next week, God willing, as well as the coalition agreement, heralds the successful end of a great deal of work and mental effort invested by all partners making up the new government in Israel today.

The State of Israel today needs a national government which will conduct the affairs of state at this difficult time fraught with danger—which also entails many prospects—with a view to solving the numerous problems that are awaiting the right solutions.

The government's main effort will be devoted to the most important issue in our lives today: the mass immigration coming to Israel and its absorption. At the same time, of course, we will deal with all the important issues laying ahead: advancing toward peace, strengthening security, developing the economy, solving social problems, settlement and other issues which the Cabinet members will have to deal with day and night.

The signing of the coalition agreement reflects the commitment of the signatories to work with all their strength and ability for the sake of the people and the country.

Distinguished listeners, in the last few years we got used to so-called national unity governments. National unity is a supreme value which is always needed and desirable, but this unity must also be exercised in reality in all spheres of action. I pray that national unity will prevail within the government we are setting up today, and that we all act with affinity and as one, and speak with one voice for the sake of the Israeli people and Eretz Yisra'el.

Gentlemen, allow me to propose a toast to the State of Israel and to the success of the government. Lehayim! [applause]

[Political correspondent Arye Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, are you pleased with the government you managed to form?

[Shamir] We will see that once it is in place and begins to operate.

[Golan] Do you still harbor some doubts, or do you know for a fact that you have a government? Will you not have last minute surprises?

[Shamir] A friend here told me: We go to such ceremonies with a mixed feeling of joy and apprehension.

[Golan] Arye Der'i said that. Is he a friend now?

[Shamir] He has always been a friend.

[Golan] Will this government, which rests on the right wing, be able to advance peace and really adhere to your peace initiative?

[Shamir] This government represents many facets and circles within the Israeli people; this is a broad national government. It is neither a right-wing nor a left-wing government.

[Golan] Will it be able to bring us peace, sir?

[Shamir] I very much hope so.

[Golan] Are you pleased with the make-up of this government and the distribution of portfolios?

[Shamir] The portfolios are not the main thing; the main thing is the government's actions and the results of those actions.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, have you completed the distribution of portfolios?

[Shamir] Not yet.

[Golan] Why not?

[Shamir, laughing] I was busy negotiating with Rabbi Mizrahi [of Agudat Yisra'el].

[IDF Radio's Natan Gutman] Will there be any new ministers from the Likud?

[Shamir] No.

[Golan] Will this government last? It is made up of many partners, and you had to appoint deputy ministers and make numerous other internal appointments within the ministries.

[Shamir] It will not be easy. I will try my very best to see that this government will remain in power until the legal time scheduled for an election.

[Gutman] In any event, you have no intention of calling early elections.

[Shamir] One does not set up governments in order to call early elections.

[Golan] You said that a national unity government is a supreme value.

[Shamir] I said national unity was a supreme value.

[Golan] Are you contemplating the possibility of calling on the Alignment to join, or is this totally out of the question at this point?

[Shamir] This is not a realistic possibility.

Interviewed on Coalition

TA0806192590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1812 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 8 June—recorded]

[Text] [Goren] After the completion of extensive negotiations, a coalition agreement was signed today. Is this the baby you prayed for?

[Shamir] What do you mean? Of course, I prayed for this baby. The birth was a bit difficult, but sometimes a healthy and strong baby is born as a result of a difficult birth. I hope that the creature that has been created will compensate us for our efforts and worries during the birth.

[Goren] Is this the government you expected, you wanted?

[Shamir] This is the only government that can be established today, that I can set up today, and that I believe anybody else in Israel can set up.

[Goren] Does the composition of the government and its supporters indicate its objectives and policies?

[Shamir] Clearly. First, one can say with certainty, this government represents the majority of Israelis. That is true despite all the talk about a right-wing government, a narrow-based government. This is a majority government. If it does not have a majority it will not be able to operate. It does, however, represent the majority of the population.

[Shamir] Do you believe it will have a majority on Monday? There are some coalition partners, who have just left the signing ceremony, who said they are not so sure that it will have a majority on Monday.

[Shamir] I hope it will have a majority.

[Goren] Sir, the United States has been reiterating lately that it anticipates the establishment of a new government in Israel so that it can immediately advance the peace process. When do you plan to inform Secretary of State Baker that you are renewing the peace process?

[Shamir] First I informed the president and the Knesset speaker of the establishment of the government. Afterward the government must begin to operate. I suppose that the contacts and ties with the U.S. Administration will continue, and might be resumed more actively because there is a government now and there is no reason for not having contacts. We are likely to get to those issues as well.

[Goren] Do you believe that Ge'ula Kohen, Elyaqim Ha'etzni, and Rehav'am Ze'evi will permit you to renew the government's peace initiative?

[Shamir] I wrote, or rather we wrote, clearly in the government's basic guidelines that its policies will be in

the spirit of the Camp David accords and the peace initiative as approved a year ago.

[Goren] But the names I mentioned have said publicly that they will not have anything to do with the government's peace initiative, talks with Palestinians, etc.

[Shamir] It is government policy. The government will conduct the policy it has publicly declared, and that will commit all the members of the government.

[Goren] Do you believe this government will be able to function, even though some members have declared from the start that they will not permit it to advance the peace process under any circumstances?

[Shamir] This government will function; it will implement its decisions. If there is no majority within the government, then it is clear that nothing will happen, but I am sure that this government will be more decisive than previous governments.

[Goren] There are many in circles close to you, including ministers, who say that it is an open secret that you did not want such a government, that you wanted a unity government. Would it therefore not have been better to respond affirmatively to the president's call to set up an emergency unity government?

[Shamir] Look, I do not always succeed in doing what I want, but I never do what I do not want. I set up this government because I believe it is what can be established within the existing political situation in Israel. If you mean a unity government....

[Goren, interrupting] Or emergency unity government.

[Shamir] Whatever. What you mean is a government with the Alignment. The difference between this government and its predecessor is the fact that this one does not contain the Alignment, that is all. The public apparently forgot that several years ago a government existed in Israel for six or seven years without the participation of the Alignment. Nevertheless, it existed, operated, and even did a great deal to further peace.

[Goren] Now that you have a government, will you call on the Alignment to join a unity government?

[Shamir] At this moment it is not realistic. The Alignment has declared a hard-hitting opposition to this government. I will add something else. Several days ago, perhaps yesterday, I read in the press that several Alignment leaders expressed their opposition to, God forbid, a U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. If we, in whose interest I believe it is for there to be no contacts between the PLO and the U.S. Administration, try to pressure and convince them to stop the dialogue, and Alignment leaders announce that they support this dialogue, then it is as clear as day that we cannot sit with such people in a government and conduct a single policy.

[Goren] I would like to remind you, Mr. Prime Minister, that you yourself initiated a peace initiative and held ongoing contacts with the United States while it conducted a dialogue with the PLO.

[Shamir] That is true, but I always demanded that they stop that dialogue. That was our position.

[Goren] Mr. Prime Minister, you are setting up a new government in Israel based on defectors, for instance Gur and Mizrahi.

[Shamir] Look, I would like to see a law which prevents Knesset members from crossing from one party to another during the Knesset term. That law does not exist at present. We can understand Rabbi Mizrahi's position in which he claims that he was always on our side politically.

[Goren] Does that convince you?

[Shamir] Certainly, I believe him completely.

[Goren] From the moral viewpoint of the act of defection as well? You have not made your views known publicly on this yet.

[Shamir] I am opposed to all defections. I do not know if that phenomenon can be called defection. I gave you an example of somebody I know, Rabbi Mizrahi. His conscience is clear, he believes in the Likud's way.

[Goren] Sharir had a clear conscience when he left you, despite all the protests and attacks.

[Shamir] Sharir has returned to us.

[Goren] If you could turn the clock back would you repeat the moves you took in recent months, or would you take other steps to prevent the phenomena we witnessed?

[Shamir] I never look back, I look forward.

Addresses Likud Committee

TA1006163090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1434 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Likud Central Committee in Tel Aviv on 11 June]

[Text] Mr. Chairman of the Central Committee, government ministers, Knesset members, women colleagues in white [referring to Likud women dressed in white to protest lack of female representation in the new government] and other women, other Central Committee members, and honorable guests. The developments in Israel's internal political scene in recent months have shown clearly the fact that without the Likud no government can be established in Israel. [applause] There are those who thought a government could be set up based on a narrow extremist-leftist coalition whose existence would depend on the support of Knesset members who admit they are PLO supporters. Fortunate is the country and the people who are saved from that curse, and that ploy was not implemented.

The truth is that many of us within the Likud movement and among the public preferred a unity government in Israel. I was one of the first to aspire to a unity government. I invested a lot in it and faced a lot of criticism from close friends over it, but not for one moment did I believe that the Likud could not form and maintain a government without the Alignment. Nevertheless, I believed deep in my heart that at that hour, with the tasks and extent of the problems, dangers, threats, and challenges facing us, that any Zionist movement which could make a contribution must participate in the government for the sake of the preeminent national interest.

I am sure that the majority of the movement, perhaps the majority of members, agree with me that, had a unity government been set up in which there was mutual trust, compromises between the components, and real cooperation, and it spoke with one voice to the outside world, then it was justified for the Likud to pay the price for that objective for the good of the public and the state. Nobody can claim that the Likud did not try to achieve that objective and did not pay a price for a unity government, but time after time we found that the partnership was not a true partnership, that the unity with the Alignment was not true unity and that the Labor Party was incapable of putting national interest over partisan interests. We ignored the Labor Party leaders' subversive actions more than once. They instigated foreign governments and Jews abroad against our joint government and against the Likud. They held contacts with elements hostile to the state without asking anybody's permission and without informing the government. They voted for a resolution in the government and when they left the meeting they acted to foil it. Above all, they raised the flag of defeatism in order to overthrow the government and replace it with an antinationalist leftist government which would have led the state, not to peace and security, but to defeatism and national disaster. This time, therefore, we took another route, to set up a government whose parliamentary basis is narrower, but which has a greater unity and consensus of views.

In addition, the government to be set up tomorrow, God willing, has broad popular representation from towns and villages, development towns, agricultural settlements, and a large section of Israel's religious community. It includes public figures who have devoted most of their adult lives to Israel's security, education, economics, aliyah, and immigrant absorption. That is a fact. The government we will present tomorrow to the Knesset represents the majority of Israel's population, including women. [applause] All components of the religious community have joined us in the partnership because spiritual leaders and great Torah scholars believe in the pact between the Likud and the religious community and appreciate the ideological proximity of the two camps. We put great importance on the renewal and strengthening of that alliance and hope that it will act for the good of all citizens and for the fulfillment of the joint objectives and ideals of the Likud movement and the religious parties.

The media and some of the leftist spokesmen in Israel use expressions such as narrow-based government or narrow rightist government. We all know that the government that was about to be formed during Passover, which was based on extremist leftist parties, including anti-Zionist parties, deserved the name a disastrous narrow government for the people of Israel. [applause] Therefore, all those who use derogatory terms such as extremist rightist government are advised to remove the wool from their eyes. An ancient rabbi once told his sister: Do not be afraid of the Sadducees and Pharisees, but of the hypocrites who make symbolic actions but ask for full compensation.

There has recently been a lot of talk about a change in Israel's electoral system in the wake of the continuing crisis. The Likud has nothing to fear about changes in the electoral system, [applause] because we have a wide-based populist movement which encompasses all sectors of society from all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. We are opposed to rushing ahead to change things just for the sake of change. The changes must be such as to assure more stability and less crises, as well as honorable representation for all sectors of society.

Dear colleagues, the mass immigration to Israel that we are witnessing these days is a blessing from heaven. It is the realization of our dreams and aspirations. It was for its sake that the State of Israel was established and continues to exist today. That is why this mission is at the top of our national agenda. The successful absorption of the vast number of immigrants, notwithstanding the initial difficulties, will bring us more prosperity and affluence, more economic growth, more strength and faith in our future. It is not surprising that this wonder scared and frightened our enemies, who hoped that the demographic superiority of the Arabs would strangle us and would bring about the assimilation and disappearance of the State of Israel as a Jewish state. Being so frustrated and angered, they once again exposed their true intentions and, in one fell swoop, threw down the drain all the talk about change, moderation, and willingness to make peace that had supposedly taken place in the Arab world.

I ask myself: How long will we go on hearing the broken and discordant record played by leaders and heads of state, both in the West and the East, that we should give up and take risks for the sake of peace because the Arab countries and the terrorist organizations have changed, have come to terms with our existence, and are prepared to make peace with us. The moment they began their war against aliyah, the lie—that they are not opposed to the existence of the State of Israel—was exposed. [applause]

The State of Israel, and only the State of Israel, is prepared, wants, and yearns for peace. Only the State of Israel has made sacrifices and concessions for the sake of peace. We, the Israeli state and the Israeli people, will continue to be the peace camp in this region, not because of weakness and defensiveness, but because peace is embedded in our Jewish faith and consciousness and in

the ancient hope for a better future for humanity and true peace between all peoples. We will not, however, go for so-called negotiations with enemies who wish us ill, blindfolded and on the basis of illusions and false hopes. He who truly and candidly stretches his hand out to us in peace will find us ready for it wholeheartedly. [applause]

I believe this government, the national government, will work amid harmony and sincere and true cooperation among all its components.

As far as foreign relations are concerned, it will strive to strengthen the alliance with our great friend, the United States. Through its many years of wandering, the Jewish people roamed countries and continents, leaving behind memories of suffering and of the earth soaked with the blood of thousands of Jews. The United States, the leader of the free world and the bastion of democracy, was and remains free of this blemish. Therefore, the alliance between the United States and the Jewish state has firm historical roots, thanks to which it will be possible to overcome all the disagreements and differences of opinion. The long-standing political, strategic, and economic cooperation between Israel and the United States has proved to be a vital component contributing to stability and paving the way to peace in the region.

The government will exhaust the potential inherent in the vast changes taking place in the East European countries in order to set up relations of mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

The government will pay special attention to the question of internal and external security. We will strengthen the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and all the security forces which keep our country safe, and we will strive to put at their disposal the necessary means to deter any enemy and to prevent the state and its citizens from coming to any harm.

The disturbances and violence against Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have been going on for some 30 months. It seems to me that the Arab population in those areas is realizing increasingly that this path does not yield any positive results. If wars did not defeat us and wars of attrition did not break us, what has come to be known as the intifadah will also not divert us from our path. [applause]

Those who advocate violence and are not prepared to mend their ways will be dealt with firmly. I am convinced that most of the Arab population in those areas wants to tread another path, a path of dialogue, of an attempt to reach understanding, and of peaceful coexistence. We will take action to isolate the inciters and the terrorists obeying the PLO's orders in order to pave the way for a dialogue, mutual understanding, and an agreement with this population.

The government will stretch out its hand to our brothers in the Diaspora and will strengthen the alliance and mutual assistance between Israel and them. The Jews of the Diaspora, particularly the large communities in the United States and the Western countries, can and want to help us in the enormous task of absorbing immigrants in terms of housing and employment. We will invite them to come here, gird their loins, and take part in this large historic campaign. [applause]

Despite the fact that special efforts will be devoted to absorbing immigrants from the Soviet Union and other countries, we should not abandon or ignore the needs of old-time inhabitants of Israel's cities, towns, and neighborhoods—Army veterans, young married couples, and large families. The government will also have to pay attention to socially disadvantaged people and other social problems, such as drug abuse, delinquency, and preventing road accidents.

We will persist in our actions to raise the prestige, status, and rights of women in Israel [applause], especially those of working and bread-winning mothers.

Dear colleagues, the Likud's women have a legitimate grudge about the absence of proper representation in the government. [applause] I am far from making light of the justness of this contention. Even if the government takes action to effect equal rights and obligations between women and men, it would have been desirable if women were represented on the government level.

This time, however, dear lady colleagues [heckling by female delegates] it was necessary to complete the task of forming the government without shocks and [words indistinct because of heckling]. At the same time, I am explictly telling the female members of the Likud, that once the government is established and begins operating we will find a way to make sure that women are also made part of the government. [applause]

To sum up, my dear friends, we are setting on our way tomorrow and turning a new page in the life of our country in which the Likud will play a key and vital role. The status, path, and image of the country will, to a great extent, be in our hands.

We say to our coalition partners: Together we are fated to run the country's affairs for the next two and a half years. Let us work together, with mutual trust and respect, keeping in mind the national interest, public needs, and the good of the entire Jewish people. We will not be deterred by criticism, and we will not listen to slander. Let the critics and slanderers play with words, while we concentrate on construction, action, and the establishment of facts. [applause]

We will take action to bring the Israeli people closer and to respect each other, while we all await peace and full salvation.

Members of the Central Committee, the Likud is today taking upon itself a most burdensome task. We are taking upon ourselves responsibility for the leadership of the state at a difficult and fateful period fraught with dangers and threats. We know what is lying ahead of us:

all-out onslaughts, attempts to split us and break us, efforts to create an abyss between us and the people. We, the entire Likud camp, male and female members, friends, and sympathizers, must unite and close ranks [applause], and remove from our midst any trace of dispute and partisan and personal scores. We must stand united as one against any attempt to sabotage us and our government, the national government.

We will not get dragged into internal disputes and futile arguments. We will stand up to our rivals, using wisdom, common sense, and pleasant manners, and we will try to persuade every Israeli man and woman that our path is one of peace and security, a path of concern for the entire Israeli people, all sectors and factions of society.

Inciters among our enemies seek to portray us as a warmongering monster, but we will respond in their language. We will talk peace to the world. We will not tire or become weary of telling everyone that we want peace, peace on our soil, and that we will not stop working for peace. All our enemies should nevertheless know that nobody compares to Israelis when, in times of need, we rally together to defend our homeland and security.

Dear colleagues, because of the special coalition circumstances, we decided not to add new ministers as the Likud's representatives in the government. [applause] That is why good, precious, and talented friends are missing from the list I will soon read out; friends whom I would have been glad to see in the list. We decided not to add any new member to the list of ministers. [applause]

I will now read the list of Likud members who will serve as ministers in the government that will be presented to the Knesset tomorrow: Yitzhaq Shamir, David Levi, Moshe Nisim, Moshe Arens, Ehud Olmert, Dan Meridor, Roni Milo, David Magen, Gid'on Pat, Moshe Qatzav, Ari'el Sharon. Thank you very much. [applause]

HA'ARETZ Publishes Coalition Documents

'New Coalition Agreement'

TA1006101090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jun 90 p A2

["Document: The New Coalition Agreement"]

[Text] This coalition agreement was signed and sealed in Jerusalem between the following factions and Knesset members [MK's]: Likud, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], NRP [National Religious Party], the Party for the Advancement of Zionist-Liberal Ideology in Israel, Tzomet, Degel Hatora, Minister Yitzhaq Peretz, and MK Rabbi Eli'ezer Mizrahi. [no mention of former Labor MK Efrayim Gur as published]

1. The Government

1.1. A national government (henceforth, the government) will be established. It will include the factions and the MK's who signed this agreement as well as additional factions whose inclusion in the government will be decided upon.

1.2. The government will be headed by Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir.

1.3. The government and its ministers will operate according to the basic guidelines appended to this agreement, which constitute an inseparable part thereof, and according to the government's resolutions.
1.4. The principle of continuity in government resolutions will be maintained.

2. The Knesset

The coalition members in the Knesset will operate in accordance with the coalition regulations detailed below:

The Coalition Executive.

2.1. A coalition executive will be formed whose resolutions will be binding on all the coalition members.

2.2. The coalition executive will consist of 13 members: seven from the Likud and one representative each from every faction which is party to the coalition.

Notes will be recorded of the resolutions adopted in the coalition executive sessions. The chairman of the coalition executive will transmit these notes to the heads of the coalition factions, who will in turn relay them to their faction members.

2.3. Motions for the Agenda and Private Bills
A. A coalition member who wishes to present a motion to the agenda will first submit it to the chairman of the coalition executive. The chairman will have to find out the relevant minister's position on the matter. If the chairman or the minister have no objection to the motion, it will be submitted to the Knesset speaker.
B. Should a coalition member wish to present a private bill, he will first present it before the coalition executive for discussion. The coalition executive will transmit the draft bill to the government, which will announce its position within 30 days.
Should the government fail to present its position in 30 days, the draft bill will be presented to the Knesset speaker.
Should the government oppose the motion, a debate will be held in the coalition executive with the participation of a government representative, and the coalition executive will subsequently decide on the matter.
C. The members of the factions in the coalition will vote on motions to the agenda—routine or urgent—and on private bills, whether these are presented by a coalition member or by an opposition member, in accordance with the coalition executive's decision, or in line with the announcement of the minister responding to the motion if the coalition executive has not managed to discuss them beforehand.
D. A coalition member is duty-bound to vote for any draft bill or political statement presented by the government.

2.4. Amendment or Change to a Law Debated by a [Knesset] Committee
A. A coalition member who wishes to amend or change an article in a draft bill will first of all inform the committee chairman, or the coalition coordinator on the appropriate committee if the committee chairman is not a coalition member. The chairman or coordinator must defer the vote on the said article. At the end of the committee session, the coalition members on the committee will meet to decide on their vote. If the issue at hand is a clause of special importance, the faction to which the member who proposed the amendment or the change in the article of the law belongs will have the right to demand that the matter be brought before the coalition executive for decision, with the participation of the relevant minister.
B. A coalition member must vote for government-initiated draft bills and is forbidden to abstain in a vote during any of the three readings of laws brought before the Knesset by the government.
C. On matters regarding which the coalition factions have freedom of vote or freedom to abstain, in accordance with the transition law (amendment) 1961, discussions will be held in the coalition executive according to the demand of any member faction.

2.5. Regarding matters detailed below, the following practice will be observed:
(1) A proposal for a basic law raised by an MK shall be considered a draft bill.
(2) Proposed drafts of laws initiated by the government or by the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee will be passed with the consent of the factions that are partners in the coalition.

2.6. The coalition faction members undertake to support proposals that will be worked out by the coalition regarding the composition of Knesset committees, as well as amendments to the Knesset regulations intended to guarantee the efficient functioning of the Knesset.

3. General

3.1. A committee including representatives of all the coalition factions will be formed to reach an agreement on changing the Israeli electoral system. The committee will conclude its job within three months.

3.2. The religious status quo will be guaranteed. The coalition will object to draft bills that would affect the existing status quo, and will support the following issues:
A. The rabbinical qualifications law.
B. The pork bill.
C. Full implementation of the recommendations of the Knesset Labor and Welfare Committee of 21 March 1990 on abortions.
D. Operational recommendations to prevent indecent public advertisement will be examined.
E. Ways to diminish the desecration of the Sabbath, including in the sphere of public transportation, will be examined.
F. Action will be taken to prevent forced labor on the Sabbath for those who wish to observe the sanctity of the day.

3.3. The government and the Knesset will take action to close the gaps and eliminate deprivation and discrimination in the educational system for all affiliations, including yeshivas, in a bid to reach complete equality in the allocation of resources to all the educational institutions gradually, within a period of two or three years.

3.4. A committee consisting of the coalition factions will be set up to determine fixed and acceptable criteria for changing the system whereby "specialized, earmarked funds" are being allocated.

3.5. A joint committee comprising coalition faction members will be formed. It will devise a proposal for the establishment of a radio channel to instill Jewish awareness. The committee will conclude its work in six months.

3.6. The government will allot state land and will help construct residential neighborhoods for young couples, large families, and new immigrants.

The coalition factions, knowing the importance of coalition discipline and the need to secure the functioning of stable and proper government, undertake ensure that their members are present in the Knesset building during Knesset session days, participate regularly and fully in the votes in the Knesset plenum and its committees, and vote in accordance with the coalition regulations detailed above.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 10 June, in a report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel, adds that "in the Cabinet session today, marginal issues related to the coalition agreements were discussed. The Cabinet approved the transfer of the Israel Lands Administration from the Agriculture Ministry to the Construction and Housing Ministry. Responsibility for the law on the second television channel will be taken from the Communications Ministry—which will be given to a SHAS minister—and given to the Prime Minister's Office. All of this is within the framework of the coalition agreements signed on Friday."]

Government Policy Guidelines

TA1006062890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jun 90 p A2

["Document: Basic Guidelines of the Government's Policy"; capitalization, punctuation of item as published]

[Text] At the forefront of the activities of the national government presented to the Knesset will be the following missions:

1. A. Acknowledging the common fate and joint struggle for existence of the Jewish people in Eretz Yisra'el and the Diaspora, and in order to realize the State of Israel's chief goal—the ingathering of the Jewish people in their

land—the government will place aliyah and the absorption of immigrants at the top of its national objectives.
B. The government will enact measures to accelerate aliyah from all countries, and will take action to save persecuted Jews.
C. The government will act to create the social, economic, and spiritual conditions conducive to the speedy and successful absorption of immigrants in the homeland.

2. The eternal right of the Jewish people to Eretz Yisra'el is inalienable, and goes together with their right to security and peace.

3. The government's central political objectives during this period will be: To secure the state's independence and sovereignty, strengthen security, prevent war, and establish peace with all our neighbors. Toward that end, the government will act as follows:
a. The government will diligently work toward increasing the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] strength, its deterrent capability, and its ability to withstand threats from regional countries, including threats involving nonconventional ballistic weapons.
b. The government will take firm action against terrorism from any source. The IDF and the other security forces will take resolute and constant measures to guarantee peace to all residents, uproot the phenomenon of violence and disturbances, and provide tranquility throughout the country.
c. The government will place the desire for peace at the top of its concerns and will spare no effort to promote peace.
d. The government will take action to pursue the peace process in accordance with the framework for Middle East peace agreed on at Camp David, and the government's peace initiative of 14 May 1989 in all its parts.
e. Israel will encourage representatives of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to take part in the peace process.
f. Israel will object to the establishment of another Palestinian state in Gaza and the territory stretching between Israel and Jordan.
g. Israel will not negotiate with the PLO, either directly or indirectly.
h. Israel will call on all the Arab countries to launch peace negotiations in an effort to turn a new page in the region to lead it to success and prosperity.
i. The government will move to promote and strengthen mutual ties with Egypt in accordance with the two countries' peace treaty. The government will call on Egypt to fulfill its part of the peace treaty with Israel, including its undertakings according to the Camp David agreements, and will imbue the peace treaty with meaningful content as per the articles and spirit of the document, and in keeping with the intentions of the parties that signed it.
j. (1) The government will take action to foster friendly and reciprocal relations between Israel and all other peace-seeking countries.
(2) The government will continue to uphold the relations of friendship and understanding that exist between the United States and Israel, and will endeavor to deepen them in all spheres, including the area of strategic cooperation.
(3) The government will continue the momentum of resuming diplomatic relations with East European countries and countries from other regions, particularly the Soviet Union, and will make efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC.
k. United Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital, is one city under Israeli sovereignty, indivisible. Members of all faiths will always be assured freedom of religious practice and free access to all the places holy to them.
Jerusalem will not be included in the autonomy to be granted to the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, and its Arab residents will not participate in elections toward the establishment of the representation of the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, either as voters or as candidates for elections.

4. Settlement in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el is our nation's right and an inseparable component of national security. The government will take action to strengthen, expand, and develop settlement.

5. In view of the rising phenomena of anti-Semitism in various countries in the world, the government—in cooperation with enlightened governments, Jewish communities, and other elements—will wage a relentless struggle against these phenomena.

6. In the sphere of economic and social policy, the government will work toward:
A. Maintaining economic stability and further lowering inflation.
B. Attaining viable economic growth and eliminating unemployment.
C. Decreasing the country's economic dependence by reducing the deficit in the balance of payments.
D. Changing the economic structure to place it on a competitive basis, reducing the public sector, and minimizing government intervention.
E. Guaranteeing free enterprise, equal opportunity, and the advancement of the individual and his well-being, while honoring and preserving his rights and liberties.
F. Encouraging, helping, and advancing the towns and development regions in the Galilee, the Negev, Judaea and Samaria, and other parts of the country so they can fulfill their important national mission.
G. A fair division of the burden among the various social strata, bettering the lot of the weak strata, and seeing to it that the educational, health, housing areas, and other welfare services are properly managed.
H. Alleviating the serious plight of the mentally retarded, of children under the age of 14 in institutions, and of juvenile delinquents in jails.

7. In order to attain these goals, the government will:
A. Take action to promote public saving while securing the necessary resources for the prime national mission of absorbing immigrants.
B. Work toward reaching an economic and social agreement with the Histadrut [labor federation], the employers, and other factors in the economy.
C. Promote national saving in all its forms.

D. Continue reforms in the capital market for the sake of its advancement and development, while cutting back the government's role in it.
E. Continue tax reform in order to promote productivity, increase tax collection, and reach a more egalitarian division of the tax burden.
F. Strive to sell government-owned companies to private concerns.
G. Promote greater potential and actual productivity.

8. The government will take action to:
A. Promote the educational systems, develop basic applied science, and increase international scientific cooperation.
B. Develop and expand road, communications, and technological infrastructures.
C. Carry out a policy that will offer adequate housing and jobs to new immigrants and young couples, and provide assistance to large families.
D. Expand Project Renewal [for the development and rehabilitation of slum neighborhoods].
E. Effect a comprehensive reform in the civil service, placing special emphasis on the public service's duty to improve the service rendered to citizens in accordance with the government's resolution regarding the implementation of the Kubersky Commission report.
F. Promote environmental protection.

9. The government will endeavor to prevent the emigration of Jews, and endeavor to bring those back who have left the homeland.

10. The government will regard the promotion of the status of women as a socioeconomic goal. The status of women in wages and employment will be equated with that of men, and action will be taken to include women in top government positions.

11. The government will continue to work toward complete equality of rights for all citizens regardless of creed, race, nationality, sex, or ethnic origins.

12. The government will continue to promote the development of the Druze and Circassian villages in accordance with Government Resolution No. 373 dated 21 April 1987, including the allocation of the necessary funds.

Every effort will be made to integrate these populations into civil service and various public institutions to enhance their share in national and public responsibilities.

13. The government will make efforts to continue to develop the Arab sector in everything related to the development of infrastructure, ordnance and construction plans, and employment. Action will likewise be taken to include them in various government ministries. The necessary resources will be made available for this.

14. The government will strive to integrate all public elements in an unrelenting and unceasing battle against traffic accidents.

15. The government will continue to combat the phenomenon of drug abuse in every possible way.

16. The government will endeavor to effect local council reform.

17. A. The government will take action to eradicate crime and violence and to instill recognition of the supremacy of law and order.
B. The powers invested in the police, the prosecution, and the courts to combat crime in all its manifestations will be extended.

18. In an effort to strengthen democracy in the country, increase the government's ability to function, and deepen the affinity and links between the voter and the elected representative, the possibility of effecting electoral reform and a change in the Knesset election process will be examined.

19. A. National unity and proper social life require the fostering of mutual tolerance, bringing the various segments of the nation closer together, and guaranteeing freedom of conscience and religious practice. The government will prevent any religious or antireligious coercion by any party, will secure public religious needs through state institutions and laws, and guarantee—on the basis of equality—religious education for all the children whose parents want it.
B. Freedom of religion and conscience, including the provision of religious needs, will be guaranteed to all faiths.

20. The national status quo on religious matters will be scrupulously observed.

21. Education in Israel will be founded on our nation's eternal values: the Torah and love of our people and homeland.

22. The government will foster an attitude of respect toward Israel's heritage, and will strengthen links between Israel and the Diaspora.

23. The government will honor all of the State of Israel's international commitments.

Levi Questioned on Foreign Policy, English Skill

TA0906111090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Report by David Essing]

[Text] A major change in the new government: David Levi—foreign minister. Levi, in his early 50's, came to Israel as a boy from Morocco to settle in the town of Bet She'an. I asked the incoming foreign minister how he'll handle foreign policy. His answer: I'll implement the government's policy, which has advancing the peace process at its center, while preserving Israel's vital interests.

Question: But if you don't speak English, how are you going to maintain contacts with the U.S. Administration and the Jewish community in the United States?

David Levi: All my life I have accomplished what I have taken upon myself. I study. I also have the drive and

faith to advance those things I believe in. As for the Jewish community and administration officials in the United States, relations are good, even excellent.

[Begin Levi recording—in Hebrew] Language should be no obstacle. I will surprise you yet. You would not ask Gorbachev or Mitterrand this question, right? They live, exist, and understand. Some people... [fading into superimposed English translation] [end recording]

The language would not be an obstacle. I'll surprise everyone. As for your question, you certainly wouldn't ask it of Gorbachev or Mitterrand, right? Anyway, there are some English-speaking people who don't understand what you tell them anyway.

Question: Are you now learning English?

I'm learning, shall learn, and will also teach.

The new foreign minister, David Levi.

Interior Affairs Minister Investigated for Fraud

TA1006113090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] An official Israel Police announcement issued this morning states that an investigation into suspicions of fraud and breach of trust against Interior Affairs Minister Arye Der'i will be launched. The allegations are in regard to the allotment of Interior Ministry funds to religious institutions.

The announcement further states that the investigation of Minister Der'i is being launched following the amassing and verification by police of evidence, including facts featured in the state comptroller's report, and consultations with the state comptroller, general attorney, and state attorney. The investigation will be conducted by the National Fraud Investigation Unit.

Trade Deficit Rises 20 Percent in April, May

TA1106100990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jun 90 p 6

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] Israel's trade deficit increased sharply during April and May, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

Seasonally adjusted figures, the bureau spokesman said, show that the trade deficit during these two months was 20 percent greater than that registered in February and March, which in turn was 8 percent greater than the two previous months.

A spokesman for the bureau explained that the April-May rise could be attributed to a 9 percent increase in imports, juxtaposed with only a 4 percent in exports.

The total trade deficit for the first five months of 1990 totals $1.3 billion, some 20 percent more than the deficit chalked up during the same period last year. This represents an 11 percent increase in imports, with only an 8.5 percent hike in imports.

In money terms, the May trade deficit totalled $289 million, and the average trade deficit for April and May was $298m. per month.

Imports of investment assets, which increased by 25 percent since the beginning of the year compared to the same period last year, remained static during April and May, compared with the two previous months.

Imports of manufacturing inputs rose by 10 percent in the last two months, compared to February and March. On average, imports of these goods rose by 8 percent during the first five months of the year, compared with the same period last year.

On the export side, seasonally adjusted figures show a 4 percent increase in the export of manufactured goods during April and May, as compared with the previous two months. The bureau spokesman noted that exports of manufactured goods for the first five months of the year remained at the same levels recorded during the second half of 1989.

King Warns Against Ceasing U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN1006122590 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] His majesty the king has warned the United States from the consequences of breaking off the dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, saying such a move is unjustified and will further jeopardize the situation in the region.

His majesty said the formation of a Likud-led hardline government in Israel would increase extremism and said he expected extremely difficult times will emerge.

His majesty told a group of correspondents of the French press agency in the Middle East at the end of their annual meeting in Amman that Israel had dealt a fatal blow to peace proposals offered by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

His majesty explained that the crisis which emerged from U.S.-Israeli differences had deviated peace endeavors calling for an international Middle East peace conference which would come up with certain conclusions.

His majesty pointed out that the PLO had gained nothing in return for its recognition of Israel, renunciation of terrorism, and meeting all these conditions.

His majesty voiced fears that this situation would further encourage extremism by both sides in the conflict reflected by the new right-wing government in Israel.

His majesty said that Israel had repeatedly shown intransigence and rejection of any move toward a comprehensive and lasting peace settlement. He also noted that the Soviet Union was facilitating Jewish emigration to Israel by not granting the emigres passports allowing them to return home.

His majesty said Jordan was passing through the most critical situation in its history and called for further Arab support to the Kingdom.

Jordan, his majesty added, had assumed tremendous national responsibilities in defense of itself and the entire Arab nation, and pointed out that the Kingdom could not alone counter the dangers threatening the Arab homeland.

Reaction to New Israeli Government

Al-Qasim, Palestinians Comment

JN1006065690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 90 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES Staff Writer with agency dispatches]

[Text] Amman—Efforts for peace in the Middle East have been dealt a serious setback by the formation of the new right-wing government in Israel, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said Saturday.

The government formed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "will have negative effects in the region and it's a setback for all peace efforts," al-Qasim was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

"In its current formula and with Shamir's statements of his government's policies, all hopes for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East are destroyed," al-Qasim told the AP during a break in a session of the Lower House of Parliament.

The foreign minister also said that "if the United States decides not to continue talks with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation), this is going to be interpreted as additinal American support for the hostile policies of the Israeli government."

"This is not to the benefit of the U.S. administration," he added.

Shamir Friday formed a coalition government pledged to "up-root" the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising and to permit additional Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.The new government led by Shamir's Likud bloc also ruled out any talks with the PLO.

The head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House expressed scepticism that Israel's rightist government would affect U.S. policy even if it blocks peace efforts.

"The Americans are too cowardly to do anything, no matter what Israel does," said former Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

He said that if Shamir wins a vote of confidence, "this is really a very dangerous cabinet because it consists of... the most extremist politicians in Israel."

He said if the government stays in power for some time," there is a real danger to Jordan" because "it is the policy of the Israeli government to push Palestinians out of their territory" into Jordan.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, said the new Israeli government would institutionalise political extremism in Israel.

"The region will now face an extremist government that will heighten tension, carry out acts of aggression on some Arab countries, especially Libya, Iraq and Jordan, and clamp down on the intifada," he told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The new government will also abort any moves towards peace and would resist any peace initiative contrary to continuing the military occupation of Arab territories," he said.

In the Gulf, newspapers and radios stations branded Shamir's government "a war cabinet" and urged the United States and other major powers to act to head off confrontation.

Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories have predicted more conflict and oppression under the new Israeli government.

"Extreme racists and advocates of terrorism have become part of the Israeli establishment," said academic Hanan Mikha'il 'Ashrai, reflecting widespread concern in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is clear that Israel has not cast its vote on the side of peace but is pursuing a policy of conflict and oppression."

But Faysal al-Husayni, the most senior figure in the occupied territories, told Reuters, "We are ready to deal with this government. If it wants peace we are ready and if it seeks war it should know that no one can destroy the Palestinian uprising."

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, another West Bank university professor, said: "When you drop the political option—and this government was formed to bury the peace option—it means the other option is conflict."

Some Palestinians said they worried more about an increase in Jewish settlements in the occupied territories than about more repression.

"Israel governments have used all methods of repression that are politically feasible," said Bashir al-Barqhuthi, editor of the AL-TALI'AH newspaper. But in settlement building no one could match a hardline government, he added.

AL-DUSTUR Editorial

JN0906143890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jun 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Government of the Arrogant Zionist Right Wing"]

[Text] With the formation of a new Israeli government that includes the most radical right-wing elements and advocates of war, deportation, expansionism, and colonialism, the situation in the Middle East has escalated to further tension, and the Arab-Israeli conflict has swiftly switched onto a track that leads to nothing but war and instability in the region.

An Israeli government that includes Shamir, Sharon, Eytan, and Z'evi [name as published] and other racists and murderers will strongly block any attempt to activate the peace process in the region, and will open the door to various possibilities, including favorable prospects for those who have a mania for settlement, annexation, and aggression. By this we are referring to the possibility of selected attacks being launched that could lead the region to the inferno of a war with an unknown outcome.

The slogans raised by the pillars of the Israeli right-wing government against the intifadah, the peace process, and neighboring Arab countries evidently herald a policy by this government based on war, expansion, and aggression—a government whose direct aim is to bring in more immigrants, establish more settlements, and practice more terrorism against the Palestinians and all Arabs.

As the government of the crazy Israeli right wing declares its program with such clarity and uncovers its direct aims with such candor, we urge the Arab brethren to study the ensuing dangerous situation with complete responsibility and vigilance. This should be done by implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions, finalizing Arab reconciliations, and bridging the few remaining gaps in Arab security.

We realize ahead of time that the government of the arrogant Zionist right wing will escalate its terrorism against the masses of the intifadah and will expand the scope of its settlement policy. We also know in advance that this government will escalate threats against Arab states and will take the next opportunity to implement its threats against certain Arab countries. However, we realize that the Arab situation, into which numerous important positive elements have been introduced, is capable of confronting this sweeping danger and containing its obvious evils.

Without a doubt the United States is responsible for the occurrence of this development, which will push the Middle East—with all its mass destruction weapons—toward the furnace of a new confrontation with unprecedented results. This is because the United States has not only continued to appease Israeli extremism and cover its ugly crimes, but has persisted in providing it with all means of persecution, terrorism, and expansion.

Therefore, we urge the fraternal Arab states to deal with this Israeli development with all due care and consideration. We also urge the United States to deal in a responsible manner with any possible exacerbation of the situation that could lead to a dangerous confrontation. This would be through curbing the extremism and fanaticism of the arrogant right wing. To achieve this, the United States should adopt a balanced policy that equally combines wisdom and foresight with seriousness and effectiveness.

PETRA-JNA Commentary

JN0906162490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Jun (PETRA)—The course of events in the Middle East, which will have a radical impact on the future of this region, confirms many facts. The first is that increasing Arab moderation is being met by increasing Israeli extremism, and that, every time the Arabs come close to realizing their legitimate rights of scientific and technological development or joint action to preserve pan-Arab security and confront the dangers surrounding them, the enemies of the Arab nation increase their ferocity in confronting the new Arab awakening with all media, military, and political means at their disposal.

There are many real indications that the Middle East region is entering a new stage: the formation of an

extremist Israeli government which declares clearly and frankly that it will settle the Jewish emigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories, oppress the intifadah, reject peace efforts, and expel the Palestinians from their land; the U.S. veto on sending a UN fact-finding mission to the occupied Palestinian territories; its decision to consider Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel; U.S. threats to halt its dialogue with the PLO—which has merely become a matter of time; the race among the socialist countries to recognize Israel in implementation of the U.S. dictates, the most recent of which were the new Greek prime minister's statements that he will expel all Palestinians from Greece; the Soviet president's affirmation that he will not stop Jewish emigration to Palestine; the unjust media campaign against Iraq; and Israeli threats backed by the United States that it will launch a military attack against Iraq, Libya, and Jordan. This stage is titled Israeli madness supported by forces hostile to the Arab nation.

The results of this Israeli madness, which places the entire region on the verge of an eruption and on threshold of instability, cannot be predicted. However, we can say that the Arab nation, the entire Arab nation and not just one country alone, will definitely be threatened with real dangers if all the various forces are not united in word and deed, and if Arab solidarity is not concretely practiced—not just in rhetoric and slogans. [passage omitted]

Editorial Says U.S., Israel 'Blackmail' USSR

JN0706124590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jun 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "U.S.-Israeli Blackmail of Soviet Union"]

[Text] Zionist pressure groups in the U.S. Congress have been enraged ever since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced that his country would reconsider Jewish emigration if Israel did not give guarantees not to settle these emigrants in the occupied Arab territories. Yitzhaq Shamir's government took the initiative and fired the first shot in this open battle against Soviet intentions by releasing a clearly provocative statement against the possible Soviet action, calling on its friends in the U.S. Congress and Administration to prevent implementation of Gorbachev's announced position.

Indeed, pro-Israel pressure groups in Congress and various Zionist organizations launched a blackmail campaign and created a great hullabaloo against the Soviet Union if it were to reconsider Jewish emigration. Some American sources went so far as to say that all trade agreements signed between Washington and Moscow would remain ink on paper if the Soviet Union did not open the door wide for emigration without restrictions.

While we realize the internal difficulties currently facing the Soviet Union and its need for more U.S. trade facilities, we still hope that the Zionist pressure groups will not be able to impose their policy on the Soviet Union, which is beginning to realize now that the flood of Jewish emigrants has strengthened rightwing expansionist groups in Israel and has created an atmosphere of tension that threatens grave dangers.

The Zionist, U.S.-Israeli gamble to take advantage of the Soviet Union's internal hardships to prompt it to carry out the plan of sending hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine must be thwarted through more international understanding of the Soviet position and through formulas for joint action and cooperation with our Soviet friends. We have no doubt that the Arabs would participate positively in this respect.

While we praise the Soviet position, which shows clear understanding of Arab fears about the current wave of Jewish emigration, we expect more Arab appreciation and Arab-Soviet understanding on this very sensitive issue. We also hope that more forms of trade and economic cooperation will develop with the Soviet Union in the near future to enable our historic friends to overcome various forms of pressure and blackmail, and thus thwart the exposed U.S.-Zionist gamble.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Moves To Improve PDPA Image

BK0906050890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0210 GMT 9 Jun 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, June 9 (AFP)—President Najibullah has called a congress of his ruling party for the first time in a quarter of a century in what is seen here as a bid to cleanse it of 12 years of bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) plans to change its name to Watan or "Homeland" Party and adopt a new charter at a congress to be held by the end of the month.

"It's the same old party with a new name. Changes may look impressive on paper. They (the PDPA) promised to end their monopoly on power last month, but they are still holding on to the plum jobs," an opposition figure said here.

Diplomats agreed that the proposed changes in the PDPA were unlikely to have any immediate impact on the country which it has ruled since coming to power in a bloody pro-communist revolution in 1978. But they hope constitutional reforms introduced by Mr. Najibullah last month will be implemented gradually, clearing the way for a political settlement to the stalemate in the country.

The 44-year-old president introduced fundamental changes to the 1987 Constitution, ending his party's hold on power, and appointed a non-PDPA Prime Minister although key portfolios still remain with the same party ministers.

In a draft program of action released this week, the PDPA said it had failed to understand realities, had followed an unbalanced foreign policy and adopted "hasty reforms," plunging the country into civil war after the military uprising in 1978.

However, these confessions from senior PDPA men and Mr. Najibullah himself in the past few weeks have failed to cut any ice with Washington, the main backer of the Afghan resistance groups.

"To Afghans, Najib is viewed as the perpetrator of gross human rights abuses through a rule of terror during and after the Soviet occupation," a State Department spokeswoman said on the eve of the Bush-Gorbachev summit. She was referring to Mr. Najibullah's package of proposals to end the civil war which has cost more than a million lives.

Another U.S. official described the president's moves as "a sham."

Former Afghan King Zahir Shah, in exile in Italy, described the Kabul government earlier last month as an imposed communist regime. Mr. Najibullah reacted angrily to the ex-monarch's remarks, accusing him of stirring up trouble at home, and strongly denied that he was a communist.

The president's political initiatives were also designed to show that he is the only political force in the country in the absence of unity among an estimated 4,000 mujahidin factions, observers here say.

Mr. Najibullah's moves were also aimed at distancing himself and the party from the 1978 "revolution." The anniversary of the uprising slipped by on April 27 without the usual celebrations as the president dropped the wheel, the symbol of the revolution, from the state emblem, removing the last ceremonial vestiges of what some here now dare to call a coup.

The country has also been declared an Islamic state, a move to appease the largely Islamic population and subdue the fundamentalists.

All the changes are aimed at making the party more acceptable to the people, ahead of possible elections in line with the superpower agreement on polls to help end the Afghan conflict.

However, the Bush-Gorbachev summit failed to come up with crucial answers to Mr. Najibullah's role in a future ballot. The mujahidin and Washington want him out before any election while Moscow sees no reason to replace the man who has held his own since the Soviet troop pullout in February of last year.

"The mujahidin have proved in the past 15 months that they cannot mount a successful frontal assault on Kabul, but on the other hand Najib still faces the danger of a collapse from within," one diplomat said.

Three months ago Mr. Najibullah survived a bloody coup bid led by his former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay who has since defected to the resistance. The president used the coup bid to weed out his opponents from the party but he still faces the danger that discontent in the Armed Forces could break out into the open because a majority of the PDPA in the military belong to the former defence minister's Khalq faction.

Mr. Najibullah himself leads the Parcham faction of the party.

Najibullah Receives UN Envoy Sevan 10 Jun

LD1106063890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] This afternoon esteemed Najibullah president of Afghanistan received at the Presidential Headquarters, Benon Sevan, representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

During this meeting esteemed Najibullah spoke in connection with the proposed peace mechanism of the Republic of Afghanistan, which was approved in the Guard Assembly held 28-29 May, and the constitutional amendments.

In return, Benon Sevan conveyed the best wishes of the UN secretary general to esteemed Najibullah and expressed pleasure in meeting Najibullah.

Khaliqyar Message Passed to Hungarian Leaders

LD0606074990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 5, BAKHTAR—The separate messages of Fazl Haq Khaliqyar prime minister, and 'Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] were recently handed over by Hashmatullah Aurang, ambassador, extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the RA in Budapest to Antall Jozsef prime minister and Geza Jeszenszky minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Hungary on the occasion of their election to these posts.

Reciprocally, the prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Hungary extended their gratitudes to the said messages of the prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs of the RA.

Mujahidin Blow Up Depot, Seize Posts Near Kabul

BK1006144290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 10 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin blew up an arms depot and captured three security posts in Paghman Valley, 15 kilometres (nine miles) west of Kabul, resistance sources said Sunday [10 June]. The guerrillas offensive was launched Tuesday [5 June] and backed by heavy rocketing of government bases in the Zargar region of Paghman, the mujahidin's official news agency MIDIA said.

The agency said that Kabul's forces had suffered heavy losses and that at least 12 officers and soldiers defected to the rebel gunners. The agency said the mujahidin disabled several military vehicles, while a surface-to-air missile slammed an arms depot, which caught fire. The blazing depot continued to rain ordnance for several hours, it said.

Other sources also said mujahidin had recently intensified attacks on military installations around the Afghan capital. They said mujahidin resistance fighters on Thursday [7 June] attacked a multi-barrel missile base in logar, south of Kabul, killing eight government soldiers and badly damaging the base. The mujahidin also lobbed rockets on army bases at Mohammed Agha, Shakar Qila and Babus Districts of Logar, killing 29 soldiers, they said.

Renewed clashes were also reported in the region of eastern Jalalabad, where guerrillas overran three posts in suburban Samarkhel and Chapparhar.

Resistance sources denied a claim by Kabul two days ago that the mujahidin had been driven out of Jalalabad's suburbs. They said the regime's planes heavily bombarded the area around the beleaguered city, killing some farmers and cattle.

They said the mujahidin on Thursday shot down a transport plane while it was landing at Khost, a besieged garrison where guerrillas recently increased pressure.

The mujahidin usually intensify attacks in summer.

MiG-21 Reportedly Crashes Into Kabul Building

LD1006145790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Quoting an authoritative armed forces source, the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that at around 1155 today a MiG-21 aircraft of the Air Force crashed in the area of first Microrayan [apartment blocks in Kabul city] due to a technical problem during a duty flight. The pilot was martyred and six local persons were injured. Four apartments and three vehicles were burned out and another three vehicles were damaged.

Fighting Reported Between Mujahidin Factions

Gulbuddin, Rabbani Groups Clash

LD0406083190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 3, BAKHTAR—In the continuation of fightings and revengeful attacks between the Gulbuddin and Rabbani groupings against each other severe clashes took place between the rival groups in Baglan, Laghman and Kunar Provinces recently.

The BAKHTAR military correspondents reported from the provinces that during the clashes the sides used heavy arms and rockets against each other resulting to the killing of 17 persons from both sides, tens other wounded, over 15 persons belonging to the Rabbani group along with 13 lorries of arms and ammunition were arrested and seized by the Gulbuddin group.

'Extremists' Clash in Provinces

LD0406083390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 3, BAKHTAR—Organs of the Ministry of State Security discovered 7 kgs of explosives, 7 handgrenades and a quantity of armaments in the 9th precinct, Kabul city today. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that the said deadly materials and weapons which were imported from abroad by the extremists to kill innocent people were defused and seized.

According to another report the garrison of Takhar Province carried out a mopping up operations today in the Aikhanum area of that province and cleared 35 extremists. The report further adds that during the operations 320 armed and unarmed extremists by stopping war activities joined national reconciliation policy.

As a result of the clashes which occured among the Gulbuddin, Sayyaf, Maulawi Nabi, Maulawi Yunus and

Gaylani groupings in the Nangarhar, Vardak, Qandahar and Laghman provinces 27 extremists were killed and 48 others wounded.

Also, 19 members of the Maulawi Nabi were arrested by the Gulbuddin supporters in the Nangarhar Province during the day.

'Extremist' Groups' Clashes Continue

LD1006090790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Kabul, June 9, BAKHTAR—Thirty seven extremists were killed and some injured owing to the severe confrontations which took place between the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani in the provinces of Ghowr, Badakhshan and Helman, reports BAKHTAR military office.

According to another report, ten extremists were killed and another six injured in a similar confrontation which took place between Rabbani and Gulbuddin groups in several regions of Helman Province.

The clashes between the two belligerent groups are still continuing.

India

Reportage on Nepalese Premier Bhattarai's Visit

Singh, Bhattarai Agree on Relations

BK0806150490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] India and Nepal are to restore the status quo ante in their relationship in its entirety. This has been agreed to at the first high-level talks between the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and the visiting Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Bhattarai, in New Delhi today. The two leaders met separately for an hour and later were joined by their full delegations to extend the talks for 45 minutes more. During the discussions, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, told the Nepalese side that the objective of his government is not to reduce the tension between the two countries alone. He said India wants the two sides to move in a positive direction to enter into diverse fields of cooperation between the two countries. This would give concrete shape to the objectives and ideas the two countries share.

More on 'Major Breakthrough'

BK0806161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] India and Nepal have agreed to end their 14-month-old row in trade and transit and restore the status quo ante in its entirety on both sides. The major breakthrough was achieved today at the first high-level talks between the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and the visiting Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Bhattarai, in New Delhi today. The agreement is expected to lead to the reopening of 15 transit points closed by India after the nonrenewal of the trade and transit treaty between the two sides which expired in March last year. In turn, Nepal would take care of New Delhi's security concerns.

The Indian prime minister and Mr. Bhattarai first met without aides for an hour, and later were joined by their full delegations. During the discussions, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, told the Nepalese side that the objective of his government is not to reduce the tension between the two countries alone. He said India wants the two sides to move in a positive direction to enter into diverse fields of cooperation between the two countries. This would give concrete shape to the objectives and ideas the two countries share. To achieve this goal, Mr. V.P. Singh made a plea for the restoration of the status quo ante in relationship by both sides. He expressed the hope that in doing so, both the countries would be able to examine how much could be done to strengthen their bilateral ties and to give a new direction to their relations, keeping in mind each other's interests. He said India is committed to improve its relations with Nepal as promised in the election manifesto of his ruling party. He said India is happy at the triumph of democracy in Nepal and rejoice with the Nepalese people in the fulfillment of their aspirations.

Reciprocating the same sentiments, the Nepalese prime minister thanked the people of India for their invaluable support which sustained the Nepalese people in their long and hard struggle for the restoration of democracy. He also thanked the Indian parliament, media, and political parties who voiced their support in their struggle.

In response to Mr. V.P. Singh's plea, Mr. Bhattarai said that Nepal desires very much to reciprocate the sentiments expressed by the Indian prime minister for restoration of status quo ante in their relationship in its entirety on both sides. The high-level delegations of the two sides included the finance and commerce ministers of both the countries; the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral; and the foreign secretaries. Senior officials of both sides also took part. The second round of talks between the two prime ministers and the high-level delegations are slated for tomorrow.

Our correspondent adds that the major breakthrough achieved by the two sides today ends their 14-month-old trade and transit row which began after the expiry of the treaty on transit and trade in March last year. An agreement between the two sides will lead to the reopening of 15 transit points closed by India following nonrenewal of the treaty. In turn, Nepal would take care of the security concerns of New Delhi.

Singh, Bhattarai Exchange Toasts

BK0906042890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] India and Nepal have called for resolving all outstanding problems with a sense of urgency and in a

comprehensive manner that was mutually acceptable and beneficial. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, said in a speech at a banquet in New Delhi in honor of the visiting prime minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, that the two countries must not merely reestablish mutual trust but also learn to understand each other's genuine concerns and accommodate them as much as possible.

Mr. Bhattarai called for a generous gesture from India to help in full democratization of Nepal with a constitutional monarchy. He stressed that India and Nepal could become an example of how there can be an enduring friendship between two sovereign neighbors on the basis of mutual goodwill and understanding.

The second round of talks between the two prime ministers and the high-level delegations are scheduled to be held today.

Second Round of Talks Held

BK0906130490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, held a second round of talks with the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, in New Delhi today. They discussed all aspects of the bilateral relations.

According to an official spokesman, the two leaders met without aides for over an hour. The talks were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

The Nepalese prime minister also had a series of meetings besides calling on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, who hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting dignitary. The discussions between the two sides are continuing at various levels.

Bhattarai Thanks India

BK0906162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] The prime ministers of India and Nepal had a second round of talks in New Delhi today, covering all aspects of bilateral relations. An official spokesman said that the two leaders met without aides for over an hour. The discussions were marked by warmth and cordiality. The talks went beyond schedule, and the full delegation-level discussions could not take place. The spokesman said, however, discussions are being held between delegation members at various levels.

Earlier, the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, called on President Mr. R. Venkataraman and had lunch with him. Mr. Bhattarai also met leaders of various political parties, including Congress-I President Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] President Mr. L.K. Advani, Janata Dal leader Mr. Chandrashekhar, and CPI [Communist Party of India] General Secretary Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

Speaking at a reception held in his honor by the Bharat-Nepal Maitri Sangh [Indo-Nepal Friendship Society] in New Delhi today, Mr. Bhattarai thanked the people, government, and the parliament of India for their support in the struggle for restoration of democracy in Nepal. He said that in the emergency-like conditions during the last 20 years in Nepal, thousands of people were killed and about a lakh jailed.

Referring to the strain which had come in the relations between his country and India, Mr. Bhattarai said that it is no use blaming anybody for that and hoped that his visit will help in improving the bilateral relations. He said that the friendship between the two countries is age-old and spiritual, and nobody will be able to weaken it.

Speaking on the occasion, the president of the sangh [society], Mr. Manavendra Singh, MP [member of parliament], said that the visit of Mr. Bhattarai will mark the new beginning of friendship and goodwill between the people of the two countries.

Affirms Commitment To Normalize Ties

BK1006092890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has reaffirmed his government's commitment to normalize relations with India and strengthen them for mutual interest. He was speaking at a special convocation in New Delhi today where an honorary degree of doctor of law was conferred on him by the chancellor of Delhi University, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

The Nepalese prime minister said that he had extremely useful discussions with the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and other leaders. He said there has been a much closer understanding of each other's views. Mr. Bhattarai expressed confidence that given the political will on both sides, there are numerous possibilities of further strengthening bilateral relations.

The Nepalese prime minister pointed out that the expiry of the trade and transit treaties in March last year led to a dislocation of traditional economic ties. He said in the interest of both the countries, such an unfortunate situation should not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Bhattarai said Nepal and India have high stakes in the preservation of international peace, stability, and development. He said as members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, we are committed to work together toward regional peace and prosperity. Given the political will and determination, the member-nations can achieve the objectives which they have set for themselves.

The Nepalese prime minister said his country is now on the threshhold of a new political, social, and economic order. Steps are being taken to nourish the new-born democracy. A new constitution of Nepal is expected to

be ready within three months and the Nepalese Government is committed to hold general elections within one year, he added.

The vice chancellor, Professor Upendra Bakshi, and the lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. Arjun Singh, were among those present on the occasion.

India today presented two Chetak helicopters to Nepal. At a simple function in New Delhi today, the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, handed over the keys of the helicopters to the prime minister of Nepal, Mr. Bhattarai. Later, Nepalese pilots flew the helicopters to Kathmandu.

Joint Communique Issued

BK1006125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] India and Nepal have decided to fully normalize their relations by restoring the status quo ante to April 1987, with Nepal declaring that its territory will not be allowed to be used as a base against India. In a joint communique issued this evening at the end of a three-day visit of the Nepalese prime minister to New Delhi, the two sides also announced that all necessary steps will be taken for normalization of relations by the 1st of next month.

Signing the joint communique in the presence of a battery of national and international media men, both Mr. Bhattarai and Mr. V.P. Singh declared that this is a historic occasion. The two leaders also declared their intention to usher in a new era of cooperation, particularly in industry, human resource development, environment, and harnessing of the waters of the common rivers.

The communique disclosed that India would reopen 15 transit points which existed before the expiry of the trade and transit treaty. In turn, Nepal would remove the restrictions on Indian nationals who would now be considered out of the ambit of the work permit scheme. Indian nationals employed in schools in Nepal will be placed on the same footing as Nepalese nationals. Removal of restrictions on the movement of Indian currency between the two countries will be on the basis of reciprocity.

Further on Conclusion of Visit

BK1006161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] India and Nepal have decided to fully normalize their relations by restoring the status quo ante as on April 1987. Nepal has declared that its territory will not be allowed to be used as a base against India. In a joint communique issued this evening at the end of the three-day visit of the Nepalese prime minister to New Delhi, the two sides also announced that all necessary steps will be taken for normalization of relations by the first of next month.

Signing the joint communique in the presence of a battery of national and international media persons, both Mr. Bhattarai and Mr. V.P. Singh declared that this is an historic occasion. The two leaders also declared their intention to usher in a new era of cooperation, particularly in industry, human resource development, environment, and harnessing of the waters of the common rivers.

The joint communique disclosed that India will reopen the 15 transit points which existed before the expiry of the Indo-Nepal trade and transit treaty. In turn, Nepal will remove the restrictions on Indian nationals who will now be considered out of the ambit of the work permit scheme. Indian nationals employed in Nepal will be placed on the same footing as Nepalese nationals. Removal of restrictions on the movement of Indian currency between the two countries will be reciprocal.

The two leaders reiterated their government's adherence to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's affairs. Both agreed that the two countries will fully respect each other's security concerns. Neither side will allow activities in the territory prejudicial to the security of the other. The two countries will also have prior consultations to reach mutual agreement on such defense-related matters which can pose a threat to the security of either.

The communique also lauded the success of the movement for multiparty democracy in Nepal.

Both the countries announced several concessions in trade and other matters, including restoration of earlier three immigration points on the border and permission for movement of Nepalese trucks to the nearest railway terminals in India.

Addressing a joint press conference, both Mr. Bhattarai and Mr. V.P. Singh clarified that they want to develop friendly relations with China as well. The coming closer of India and Nepal should not be viewed as if they are pitted against each other. Mr. V.P. Singh said the biggest achievement by the two sides is reconfirming our faith in each other.

Answering a query, Mr. Bhattarai said that his interim government has been getting the cooperation of the king of Nepal since the multiparty democratic system was ushered in in his country. He reiterated his government stand that the Kashmir issue should be resolved by India and Pakistan on the basis of the Simla agreement.

Summing up the current talks, the two leaders said that both sides gained from each other and they look forward to an era of dynamic relationship.

Later, the Nepalese prime minister was given a ceremonial send-off at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. The prime minister and his senior cabinet colleagues were among those present.

Before leaving, Mr. Bhattarai told newsmen that his visit was a success. Mr. V.P. Singh said that Mr. Bhattarai's

visit has been a landmark in the history of the relations between the two neighboring nations. During the day, Mr. Bhattarai was conferred the honorary degree of doctor of law at a special convocation by the chancellor of Delhi University, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

India also presented two Chetak helicopters to Nepal on the occasion of the Nepalese prime minister's visit to New Delhi.

The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, accepted an invitation by Mr. Bhattarai to visit Nepal.

More on Singh-Bhattarai Agreement

BK1106095790 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Excerpt] India and Nepal today reaffirmed their faith in each other by deciding to restore status quo ante in bilateral ties, and Kathmandu making a commitment not to allow its territory to be used as a base for anti-India activities. The prime ministers of India and Nepal, Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, signed a joint communique to this effect in the capital today. Describing the occasion as historic, the two leaders said that this would wipe out the aberrations which have crept into bilateral ties after the expiry of the trade and transit treaties in March last year. Doordarshan correspondent Poonam Shukul, says this is pending finalization of comprehensive arrangement covering the whole gamuts of bilateral relations between the two neighbors. The two governments will take all necessary steps to ensure that status quo ante was restored by July 1 to the position existing on April 1, 1987.

Among the highlights of the agreement:

1. India will reopen 22 border points and 15 transit points for Nepal's imports and exports through India, the absence of which had badly hit the Himalayan kingdom's economy.

2. Nepal on its part will end discrimination against Indian nationals working in the kingdom and take care of India's security susceptibilities.

3. In matters of trade, import of primary products from Nepal is to be exempted from basic customs duties as well as from quantitative restrictions.

4. In a major concession, India will provide access, free of basic customs duties and quantitative restrictions, for all manufactured articles containing not less than 65 percent of Nepalese material and Indian material on a case-by-case basis keeping in mind the need for expeditious clearance.

5. India will have 50 percent tariff concessions on most favored nation rate of import duty where value of Nepalese and Indian materials and value added in Nepal is at least 40 percent of the ex-factory price on a case-by-case basis, keeping in mind the need for expeditious clearance.

Later, addressing a joint press conference, the two leaders answered a wide range of questions, including India's security concerns which came up for discussions during the three-day visit.

In reply to a question on Chinese arms supply to Nepal, Mr. Bhattarai said:

[Begin Bhattarai recording] It was done much before, much before we came into power. And we have got to, as you know, we have got to keep up the contract. But in view of the fact that we were coming to India, we deferred it. That it should not be, the consignment should not come to Kathmandu for some time. Well, if the government after all needs arms ... [changes thought] I went through the files, you know, and I came to know that they had asked from India also. And the price that India had quoted was five times higher than what the Chinese gave. Therefore, the previous government fell for it. [end recording]

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, said that on its part, Nepal had shown positive gestures to bring cordiality between the two countries. On Nepal's economic development, Mr. Singh said:

[Begin Singh recording] I would say that there has been progress not only in resolving problems, but in our friendship, in this very process right now we have gone ahead. So there were certain duties that were imposed on Indian goods that Nepal has agreed to waive. So, those are positive gestures from the side of Nepal. And we on our side, of course, want restoration of all those points of transit, and also of [words indistinct] with the 80 percent of the, you know, indigenous content (?necessary) for Nepalese goods to get concessions. Now we have reduced this too from 80 percent to 65 percent. Then there was a condition of added value of 50 percent. We have reduced that to 40 percent. And revolving fund, there was of 25 crores [rupees]. We have increased it to 35 crores. So on both sides, you see, the expression of the positive will to come together and the potential that we have of the cooperation that we are thinking of—economic cooperation and other cooperation—that we have taken the first step already, and I assure you there is a will on both sides to move ahead on it much faster. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Pakistani Response to Proposals 'Discouraging'

BK0806130590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi has described Pakistan's response to its proposal on defusing tension on the border as somewhat discouraging. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in Delhi this evening that it is unfortunate that Pakistan's response is hedged with some reservations. Nevertheless, he said, India is determined to use every opportunity to dispel the cloud which hangs over on the relations between the two countries now. This is in view of India's commitment to pursue vigorously its well-known policy of good-neighborliness.

He said India has always been committed to the maintenance of peace and stability in Southeast [as heard] Asian region and will always try to achieve this principal objective of its foreign policy. The spokesman however said that Pakistan's response is now under the serious consideration of the government of India.

Minister Says Coming Months 'Crucial' for Kashmir

BK1106091790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said that the time has come when political activity in Kashmir must be started. He attributed the happenings in Kashmir to the lack of political activity. The home minister was talking informally to newsmen on board the aircraft on his way back to Delhi from Srinagar today after a four-day visit to Ladakh and Kashmir. The home minister said that the militancy in the valley has reached its peak and things are taking a turn for the better. He said the people of the valley have been badly affected economically. He urged the nationalist and secular forces to come forward and said the administration will provide all necessary protection to them.

The home minister said the government will continue to take tough measures to deal with the terrorists while taking care that no innocent people are harassed. There will be no constraint of funds in this regard, he added. Emphasizing that the coming few months are very crucial, the home minister said nearly 10,000 people are waiting in Pakistan to cross over to the Indian side to create trouble. Accusing Pakistan for its efforts to eliminate patriotic and secular elements, the home minister said there are certain authorities which are telling the terrorists when and where to strike.

Curfew Reportedly Placed on 55 Border Villages

BK0906154890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Amritsar, India, June 9 (AFP)—The Indian Government Saturday [9 June] slapped night curfews on 55 Punjab villages straddling known infiltration routes across the Indo-Pakistan border. Authorities in Punjab's Amritsar city called the move a "response to the new trend" after Sikh militants last week launched a spate of rocket and machine gun attacks on security posts in the Punjab and blew up railroad tracks. Police Saturday reported 14 people including two Sikh separatists killed in continuing violence surrounding a Sikh militant campaign for a separate home land in the Punjab that has left 975 people dead so far this year.

India accuses Pakistan of aiding the separatist campaign and providing weapons and training camps for the Sikh militants from across the border, charges which Pakistan denies.

Most of the villages put under the 8 P.M. until 4:30 A.M. curfew lie in the border areas of Khem Karan, Valtoha, Bhikkiwind, Gharinda and Lopoke sectors, authorities said, adding that villages within a 500 meter belt along the Pakistani frontier were already under curfew.

Police officials in Amritsar said authorities had given security officials a "free hand" to deal with the stepped-up violence against them in the past week.

In Saturday's violence a group of Sikh gunmen shot randomly at passing cars in Faridkot District late Friday [8 June] killing four travellers. Five others were injured.

In Kapurthala District two suspected militants died in a shootout with police, who reported no casualties of their own in the battle.

Three persons were shot dead by suspected militants in a liquor shop in Ropar District while other militants were held responsible by police for killing a couple in Batala District.

Two of the remaining three deaths in the state were attributed to the militants, but the third was a Punjab police constable shot and killed when returning from an all-night patrol by a fellow security man who mistook him for a militant.

Pakistan Border Situation Termed 'Delicate'

BK1006064490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General V.N. Sharma, has said that the situation on the India-Pakistan border is delicate, but India is making all-out efforts to defuse the tension. General Sharma was talking to newsmen after the passing-out parade ceremony at the Indian military academy in Dehradun.

Iran

Britain Seeks Improved Bilateral Relations

LD0906130590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd Thursday [7 June] announced that the British Government is interested in improving its relations with Iran. At the same time he rejected Iran's request to condemn the apostate writer of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses".

According to REUTER, the British foreign minister made the remarks in an interview with BBC Television. He added that relations between Britain and Iran will improve only when the edict issued against the writer is cancelled. Douglas Hurd said that he and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have a great deal of respect for Islam but they cannot engage in condemning books.

It is worth mentioning that the leader of the Islamic revolution stressed last Thursday that the edict on Salman Rushdie's death, issued by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, cannot be cancelled.

Paper Hails Thatcher, Hurd Statements

NC0906105890 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 9 (AFP)—A pro-government Iranian newspaper on Saturday [9 June] described recent statements by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and British officials as steps towards helping the normalisation of ties between Iran and Britain that were severed one year ago. Under a banner headline, "U.K. Takes a Big Step To Normalise Ties With Iran," the English-language Tehran Times hailed statements made last week by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

In reaction to a report carried June 3 by The Sunday Times that Iran was prepared to lift a death sentence against British author Salman Rushdie, Mrs. Thatcher said the offer was "an olive branch."

"Any olive branch is significant," she stressed in London.

Mr. Hurd, who was then visiting Saudi Arabia, said he had "very high respect" for Islam and did not wish to have "any quarrel, dispute, with Islam or with the government and people of Iran."

Tehran Times said that through her remarks Mrs. Thatcher had taken "a great stride towards normalisation of ties with Iran." It also recalled that on Wednesday [6 June] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran was willing to restore ties severed last year if Mrs. Thatcher condemned Mr. Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses" which Muslims say blasphemes Islam.

"The statements by the two heads of states are explicit, positive, friendly and a great stride towards restoration of ties between the two capitals," the Tehran Times said. But it criticised Mr. Hurd for saying he was in no position to "condemn Mr. Rushdie or his book."

Iran's late spiritual guide, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, issued an Islamic decree ordering Muslims to seek out and kill Mr. Rushdie over his novel. Last week the Sunday Times quoted Hoseyn Musavian, director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, that the death sentence could be lifted. He later denied the report. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday also reiterated that a fatwa, a religious decree based on 1,400-year-old Islamic law, could not be revoked.

UK Conservative MP Comments on Ties, Rushdie

LD1006123690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jun 90

[Text] Peter Temple Morris, a British member of parliament [MP] from the Conservative Party, and a member of the House of Commons' Foreign Relations Committee, said in an interview with the country's state radio: The British Government and British public opinion regret any offence caused to Islam. Referring to our president's recent remarks about the conditions for resuming ties with Britain, he said: The Iranian president's reference to Majles decisions and the conditions which he raised are reasonable. The British MP added: The importance of ties and cooperation with Iran are being increasingly felt in this country and in the West as a whole, and it is no accident that Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister has condemned the offence caused by the book "The Satanic Verses", written by Salman Rushdie, to British Muslims and to the world of Islam as a whole.

British Warned Against Linking Hostages, Rushdie

TA0806181890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 May 90 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "Britain's Two Problems"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Attempts are being made in some circles in the British Isles these days to link the "Rushdie affair" with the issue of the British hostages in Lebanon. Regardless of where this idea originated, what the motives are behind it, and which hands are fanning it overtly and covertly, it is clear that these two issues are totally separate with no logical connection between them.

The "Rushdie affair" and the issue of the British hostages in Lebanon are two of Britain's problems. The British would probably like to make one long list of all their problems—such as domestic difficulties, a split in the government, the failures of Thatcher's government, developments in Ireland, the defeats of the British Government in Northern Ireland, and hundreds of others—so that they can focus their thinking and find a common solution to some of them.

If the British are entertaining such thoughts, and if they have pinned their hopes on something and are awaiting a miracle, this is their own business. Others, however, do not feel this way about Britain's problems and difficulties, and look at issues from their own viewpoint.

The "Rushdie affair" is an issue of ideology and prestige to the Islamic world. It relates to the religious beliefs of 1 billion Muslims. It is not an independent issue and cannot be mingled with any of Britain's other problems. Because of the wickedness that Britain perpetrated in this regard, the feelings of 1 billion Muslims were wounded. Naturally, as long as it has not apologized to the Islamic world for this offense, has not handed over Rushdie to the Muslims so that the religious ruling on him may be carried out, and has not undertaken to refrain from such wickedness in the future, Britain should continue to await the consequences of its insolence.

This, however, is not London's only problem. Reports indicate that apparently the British have hostages in Lebanon. This problem is between them and the Lebanese, and it is something that would be expected to

concern them. Naturally they will involve themselves in the matter to the extent that they have an interest in resolving the problem.

There is no reason for the "Rushdie affair," which is an international Islamic issue that concerns the whole world of Islam and has "1 billion plaintiffs," to be mingled with the issue of a few British hostages in Lebanon. In essence these two issues are different and they cannot and should not be connected.

Both of these are Britain's problems, and in both cases Britain should seek to resolve its own problems. If the British like to inventory their problems no one will object, but if this is the beginning of a new conspiratorial attempt to connect these two issues, no one anywhere has the right to link these two separate issues together and confuse the topics [sentence as published]. Should they do this they will achieve nothing.

For Muslims the "Rushdie affair" is a test issue and has a clear solution. Britain must apologize for its insolence in supporting and exacerbating the affront against the sanctities of Muslims, and clearly state that henceforth it will not indulge in such insolent acts. Simultaneously, Britain must compensate for the consequences and effects of its insolence by handing over "Salman Rushdie" to the Muslims for the religious decree to be carried out against him. Nothing here is subject to bargaining, negotiations, or deals.

Britain's other problem, namely the issue of the British hostages in Lebanon, is related to Britain's behavior with the Lebanese. It is clear that it has nothing whatsoever to do with the "Rushdie affair." If the British were to use their talents, this should not, generally speaking, be difficult for them to realize.

Paper Views British Stance on Rushdie, Iran

NC0706183190 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Relations With London"]

[Text] The British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has reportedly welcomed a proposal by a British parliamentary group to send a delegation to Iran.

The proposal has been made by an all-party group of British MPs and follows renewed pressures on the London government to seek Iran's help in securing the release of its hostages in Lebanon.

Speaking after a meeting with the UK foreign secretary, the head of the Anglo-Iranian parliamentary group Peter Temple-Morris said that Hurd has "listened sympathetically" to all their suggestions and had supported the idea of dispatching a parliamentary delegation to Tehran.

A four-member all-party parliamentary delegation visited Iran two years ago and after their return they offered a positive view of Iran to the British public.

Diplomatic relations between Tehran and London were severed in March 1989 after Imam Khomeyni passed a death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of the sacrilegious novel 'The Satanic Verses', for insulting Islam and its over one billion followers.

Britain's open and official support for Rushdie has placed it in an awkward position and among Islam's number one enemies. London's persistence to back the Indian born author despite the great wrath and fury of over one billion Muslims has isolated Britain even among its own European allies.

The reason that British politicians are offering new plans everyday is clear: They are anxious and worried. They are after reconciliation with the bastion of the universal Islamic movement, i.e. Iran regarding the Rushdie affair and thus want to pave the way for getting out of isolation.

How could it be possible for the London government to support insult against the sanctities of Muslims and at the same time enjoy good relations with them?

Iran has time and again stated the framework for talks and the conditions for resumption of diplomatic relations with Britain. The Islamic Republic's stands which stem from the Islamic rulings are clear and strong. When Imam Khomeyni issued Salman Rushdie's execution order, the ruling was not restricted to a certain place or time. It will stand until its realization and no political maneuvers can affect it.

London's despatch of a so-called fact-finding team to such and such a place might solve Britain's problem under one condition, that is they should be ready without any pre-judgement to listen to the logical stands of the Islamic Republic. In the next stage the London government should want and be able to adapt itself to realities and make good on its past mistakes.

Here remains a point Muslims will always face and that is the plight of the world of Islam caused by Britain.

The issue of Palestine and occupation of Al-Qods [Jerusalem] by the usurper Zionists is the work of London's ominuous court and if Muslims are being massacred in the occupied lands it is due to the enmity of British colonialism with Islam.

The holy sanctuaries are being administrated by the infidel Wahhabis and the reason for this should be looked for in the criminal British court. If the sanctities of Islam are insulted London must again be held responsible. Britain has the darkest record of hostility towards Islam. Having a complete knowledge of these children of satan, the Majlis and government of the Islamic Republic have sealed off any grounds for misuse and infiltration beforehand.

Britain has only one choice and that is to employ talented people to help it understand the realities around it and give a positive response to demands of more than

one billion Muslims of the world. Unless this is done Britian should not expect improvement in ties with the Muslim world's stronghold.

Paper Says UK's 'Folly' Reveals Weakness

NC0806201290 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 May 90 p 9

[Unatributed political commentary: "London Is Revealing Its Weakness Through Its Folly"]

[Excerpts] The recent arrest of Dr. Muhammad Shahabi, editor of the London-based Arabic magazine "Al-'Alam," and four Arab Muslims on charges of threatening to kill Salman Rushdie, the mercenary author of the insulting book "Satanic Verses," can be considered one of the links in the chain of the British Government's plots against the Muslims of that country. [passage omitted]

His eminence the imam not only formulated the most important condition of the Iranian people for forging relations with the West, but also proved that this condition cannot be rescinded. It was within this framework that all indirect requests by British officials for a resumption of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran were rejected.

The events of the past 15 months in various countries around the world have shown that the British Government cannot continue its audacity against the beliefs of world Muslims.

As a result of the pressure exerted by British Muslims, the foolish officials of that country were forced to take the defensive and to realize to some extent that henceforth they would not be able to defame the beliefs of world Muslims. [passage omitted]

For over a year now, since Islam categorically rejected this filthy plot, the British have resorted to various tactics in an effort to find a way out of their defensive gestures of forced and widely condemned retreat and launch a counterattack.

The consecutive expulsions of Iranian students, the groundless arrests of Muslims who support the Islamic revolution in London, the chimerical pretexts used to flaunt the opinions of Salman Rushdie, who does not have the courage to emerge from hiding and who has begun to resemble a walking corpse, and similar actions reveal London's attempts to disentangle itself from this problem.

Today London is pessimistic, as it has been completely isolated over the past year and is being forced to face the repercussions of its foolish audacity. The latest examples of its efforts, which have taken the form of arresting the editor of "Al-'Alam" and four Muslim Bahrainis residing in London, are really a naive attempt at retaliation which betrays the weakness of the British. A weakness revealed through the folly of an enemy should be studied and attacked intensively in such a way that the British will never dare repeat their foolish policy against Islam and the Muslims.

Paper Seeks Single Voice on Policy, Issues

LD0906124290 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—An Iranian daily today recommended Islamic Republic officials to avoid making advantage of such statements.

Practically, excess statements and interviews are not suitable especially that Western propaganda machinery are constantly, trying to distort statement by the Islamic Republic officials, said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an inside page commentary.

The daily was referring to a recent statement by a Foreign Ministry director general on Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born author of 'The Satanic Verses' which the Western Mass media tried to interpret it as a sign of Iranian officials making a deal with Britain on Salman Rushie.

The recent clear and explicit statements of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i about the late imam's fatwa [edict] on Salman Rushdie, is another proof to continuation of the imam's path in all dimensions, said the commentary. The daily said that when the policy of the Islamic Republic on an important issue such as the Rushdie affair, is spelled out, it is not becoming of this or that official to give interviews here and there and answers to questions by foreign reporters on the issue.

Being aware of the satanic nature of Western propaganda, said the daily, such moves may damage the stand of the Islamic Republic. Such is the case with the recent views expressed by officials especially those involved in country's foreign policy.

The daily lauded President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements in his recent interview that the imam's fatwa on Rushdie was irrevocable. West's persistence in this connection is inappropriate and that resumption of Tehran-London ties depended on London's meeting conditions set by Iranian Majles.

The daily wondered if some officials involved in foreign policy makings are tempted to make statements which can be misused by foreign reporters.

The daily stressed that when high ranking officials and the Majles have given their views on major issues, other officials who happened to be asked to comment on the subject, should express similar views.

Majles Speaker Karrubi Receives PFLP's Jibril

LD0906171990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and an accompanying delegation met with Majles Speaker Karrubi this morning. At that meeting, which took place at the Majles building, Ahmad Jibril expressed his condolences on the anniversary of the demise of His Eminence

Imam Khomeyni, may God's benedictions be upon him, and described the situation in the occupied territories.

Condemning the concessionary stances adopted by various Palestinian factions whose intention is to exploit the Islamic uprising, he said: The Islamic revolution of Iran has been our role model in Palestine. He added: Our nation was taught by you how to resist the most advanced weapons, achieving great victories with empty hands. Our nation can proudly say that the great imam will remain alive and immortal in the history of the Islamic ummah. We have always reiterated that our role model has been the Islamic revolution and the sacred aspirations of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

Then the Majles speaker, in his turn, remarking on the current uprising in the Palestinian Islamic territories, and the special attention rendered by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, to the Palestinian issue and the campaign against Zionism, said: The second or the third statement issued in November 1978, by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, was on Zionism and the plight of the oppressed Palestinians. That meant that simultaneous with the onset of the Islamic revolution, his eminence the imam dealt with the issue of the innocent Palestinian people, a feeling which has always been present in the course of the Islamic revolution, becoming part of our revolution. At present, we stand alongside you and the innocent Palestinian people, generously placing our entire capability at your disposal.

Emani-Kashani Heads Tehran Friday Prayers 8 Jun

LD0806142190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] On the occasion of the first anniversary of the election of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i to the lofty position of the leadership of the Islamic revolution by the nation's experts, the pious and the monotheist people of Iran today held the immortal Mohammadan rites in their million-strong gatherings at the sites of the Friday prayers. In Tehran the magnificant Friday prayer ceremonies were held at the Tehran University and adjacent streets under the leadership of Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emani-Kashani and with the massive presence of the Hezbollah ummah together with a number of guests participating in the anniversary rites of the demise of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

In the prayer sermons, theologian member of the Guardianship Council [Emami-Kashani] stressed the need for observance of piety in all aspects of life. He then offered his congratulations on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the eighth leader of the world Shi'as, His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be upon him. He also praised the unprecedented participation of the revolutionary people of our country at the first anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. He said it was due to the people's religious conviction and their faith in the government as well as in the principle of imamate and velayat [jurisconsult] that they participated in their millions to observe the first anniversary rites of the demise of the imam of the ummah. He said since the Islamic government of Iran is a branch of the absolute vice-regency of divinities [elahiyat] the Muslim peoples of Iran and Islamic countries participated in the ceremonies in such a grand fashion because of their convictions, the convictions which take root in the Koran.

Referring to the anger of arrogance-controlled media at the participation of people in the anniversary ceremonies of the demise of the imam, Mr. Emani-Kashani said: They entertained the thought that with the demise of the imam the people would turn their backs on the government. But once they witnessed such emotion by the people they became very angry at the presence of the people in these cermonies.

He stressed: Our people have the same allegiance to His Eminence Ayatolah Khamane'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, which they had to the imam. The people regard obedience and adherence to the guidelines and his edicts to be their divine and religious duty. Continuing his remarks, he stressed the need for the solidarity and unity between the people and the government in an effort to embark on the country's reconstruction.

Praising the struggle of the people of Palestine against the usurper Zionist regime, he said: It is the duty of all Muslims to support the Palestinian combatants in their uprising.

In conclusion, Mr. Emami-Kashani condemned the decision of the Saudi rulers in preventing the Iranian pilgrims from going on the hajj pilgrimage. He called on the world of Islam to confront that issue in a serious manner.

Friday Prayers Speaker Criticizes Arab Leaders

LD0806133390 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—A senior Iranian alim [scholar] on Friday [8 June] lashed out at reactionary Arab leaders for supporting Iraq's illegal demands, in a resolution they passed at the end of a summit meet in Baghdad.

"The resolution passed by the heads of Arab states, instead of confronting the regime occupying Quds [Jerusalem], has voiced support for Iraq's illegal demands vis-a-vis Iran," said Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, a member of the Assembly of Experts.

The ayatollah was addressing a large gathering of worshippers at Tehran University campus and its nearby streets to perform weekly Friday prayers.

"Muslims should be awakened politically and intellectually and stand against such perversions but not to be indifferent toward those with whom they share a common faith," he said.

Ayatollah Kashani, also a substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran, called on Muslims throughout the world to

seriously encounter the Saudi regime's barring of Iranian Muslims from performing their hajj pilgrimage for the third consecutive year.

In July 1987, Saudi security forces opened fire on a peaceful rally of pilgrims in Mecca who were expressing their antipathy towards unbelievers as an Islamic duty, killing 400 Muslims, mainly Iranians. Many other Muslism were also wounded.

The Friday prayer leader also hailed the Iranian people for their massive participation in the mourning ceremonies marking the 1st anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni.

Mourning Ceremonies Seen as Power Struggle

LD0706201490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Dear listeners, the ceremonies organized to mark the anniversary of Khomeyni's death, despite all the pretence of unity, became a manifestation and a means of confrontation among various government factions. In the course of these ceremonies and the preparations made for it during the preceding months, one could see a clear reflection of internal factionalism and the strength and position of each of the factions. One clear fact which emerges from the present situation is that the radicals and those following the imam's line have achieved a dominant position.

Of course, if we look back to the earlier precedents and the developments during the past year we will find that the present situation is not unexpected. Immediately after Khomeyni's death, the intensity of the crisis which could have led to the direct confrontation of those who were in power and eventually to the speedy collapse of the regime forced the factions seeking a monopoly of power to refrain, at least for a short time, from serious infighting at the highest levels of leadership and to choose one leader instead of a leadership council. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his allies, too, who preferred rivalry within a leadership council, submitted to this solution. However, from the very start factional differences were not forgotten. Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Ahmad Khomeyni who had collaborated with one another in the conspiracy to effectively confine Ayatollah Montazeri to his home and to grab the succession to Khomeyni from his hands, now confronted one another in the division of the spoils which they had inherited. The radicals and the members of Khomeyni's household joined the ossified Resalatis [those whose views are represented by the newspaper RESALAT] in opposition to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and chose Khamene'i as vali-ye faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult; religious leader]

At the beginning, some people imagined that the Khamene'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani coalition occupying the two poles of power would speedily put an end to the internal struggle for power. However, the course of events proved the opposite. The flexing of muscles by the radicals, especially after they were left out of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet, was intensified, and Rafsanjani met with greater resistance than had been anticipated. Khamene'i, who had ascended to his position on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's shoulders, but had been strongly rejected by religious seminaries and some radical circles, preferred to strengthen his position by following some inclinations of the radicals on a selective bais. Khamene'i, who had been taken in by his own self-deception, even went a step further, and in the guise of the guardian of the cause [vali-ye amr] of the Muslims of the world, by making use of the extensive powers which the constitution had given him, began to spread his tentacles into all the state centers of power. It is not surprising that in private meetings Rafsanjani now complains that Mr. Khamene'i was not supposed to go this far.

In fact, Khamene'i has gone beyond the promises which he gave to members of his faction that he would merely act as a religious leader and would not rule, and has tied up Hashemi-Rafsanjani's hands. However, Hashemi-Rafsanjani who found himself constrained due to this oppressive climate, began his policies of getting closer to the West through certain moves such as organizing the publication of an article by the pen of Sa'idi Sirjani in ETTELA'AT [this article appeared soon after Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected president, praising him and implying that Iran had to face new realities and put an end to former excesses—FBIS]. However, he was soon faced with a counterattack by his rivals and found himself even more constrained than before.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani repeated this experiment with the recent article by Mr. Mohajerani. With the freeing of two American hostages he took some practical steps in this direction, too. However, once again he became the target of the curses and accusations of his rivals. Nevertheless, Hashemi-Rafsanjani had another card up his sleeve, and that was clinging to the ever-increasing economic and social crisis in the absence of any realism and the inability of the radicals to put forward any plans [for getting out of the crisis]. Any part of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policies which have been so far implemented has been due to this accelerating crisis that has confronted the entire system with serious dangers.

The organization and holding of the ceremonies marking Khomeyni's death—which was mainly a show of force by the radicals—demonstrated that Rafsanjani and those who share his views do not possess sufficient strength to openly reject Khomeyni's path and his slogans; but by means of reinterpreting Khomeyni's path they are trying to achieve some of their goals. The [SUNDAY TIMES] interview given by Hoseyn Musavian, one of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, about the possibility of withdrawing the decree for the execution of Salman Rushdie so as to improve relations with Britain is another bold step by Hashemi-Rafsanjani's faction, which will no doubt lead to a response by the radicals.

For some time Hashemi-Rafsanjani has not been very pleased with the role which he played in confining

Ayatollah Montazeri to his home, and he does not regard it in his interest to continue rejecting the liberals [reference to former Prime Minister Bazargan and his supporters]. It is perhaps within this context that the open letter by 90 persons associated with the Freedom Movement [Nehzat-e Azadi, movement led by Mehdi Bazargan] and with Mr. Bazargan's provisional government [of 1979] to Hashemi-Rafsanjani is published. The angry and savage attack by Mohtashemi and his associates on the liberals also become meaningful within this context.

Nevertheless, the possibility of new alignments and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's turning for support to forces which exist on the borderline between legality and suppression [Bazargan's group] will give rise to a new storm in the Islamic Republic whose consequences cannot yet be predicted.

The question now is whether the leaders of the Islamic Republic possesss the capacity to coexist even with their own legal opposition or not. What is certain is that even for the realization of this minimal reform, the entire fabric of the worn-out and deadlocked system of velayat-e faqih [vice-regency of the jurisconsult] should be destroyed. This prospect is not yet very bright.

Majles Deputies Review Agriculture Bill 13 May

PM0706154190 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 May 90 p 5

[Untitled report by unidentified RESALAT "legal and parliamentary correspondent"]

[Text] Following the success of the Islamic revolution, the popular Reconstruction Crusade was formed on orders from the Imam—may God expedite his passage to paradise—aimed at undertaking welfare and construction projects in a crusade-like and urgent manner. This holy organization, which has served the public, has in the past 11 years undertaken impressive and effective tasks in various fields such as economics, military, scientific, research and other areas. One important sector of the crusade's work has been in connection with welfare projects in the countryside, including issues involving farming, road-building, building schools, and so forth. Since before the revolution the ministry of Agriculture was soley in charge of agriculture and natural resources, quite often it became clear that there was conflicting and duplicate work between the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture and the revolutionary organization of the Reconstruction Crusade. Based on this, various actions were taken in the past to solve this shortcoming, which were undoubtedly inadequate. These included the directive that separated the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Reconstruction Crusade as passed by the government of Engineer Musavi, and the plan to merge the Ministries of Agriculture and the Reconstruction Crusade brought up at the Second Majles, but never ratified. In any case these actions could not solve the problems of having two similar institutions doing duplicate work and the conflicts that occurred in the running of these two organizations. This is why a group of deputies handed to the Third Majles a plan to separate the duties dealuing with water and agriculture. Following a review in a special commission comprising deputies who are members of the commissions for personnel and administrative affairs, energy, agriculture, and revolutionary organizations, the plan is now ready to be discussed at an open session of the Majles. Meanwhile the government in last Wednesday's [9 May] Cabinet meeting passed the bill dealing with separating and moving the duties with regard to water and agriculture. This could be submitted to the Majles this week as a matter of urgency so that, with the deputies' plan together with the government bill, substantial acton could be taken in this regard. What you now see are the various views expressed by those who hold an opinion, with regard to the plan to separate the duties in the fields of water and agriculture. We draw the readers' attention to it:

The views of the head of the special commission looking into the separation of duties in the agricultural sector:

The general belief is that, because of problems and shortcomings, we have not been able to plan an all-encompassing program to take advantage of the country's natural resources.

Despite the fact that Iran has quite considerable rivers and sources of water, we see many of our areas burnt dry and pitiful. At the same time we see that in the winter we suffer losses because of floods and in the summer we suffer because of a lack of water. Any working mind would come to the conclusion that we must eventually try to control and utilize all these God-given resources, with exact planning, by using the active and revolutionary forces in order to realize and expand the existing facilities in the best possible way.

On the one hand, for example, the forces that have worked and made an effort for this country in the Reconstruction Crusade from the start are without a doubt among the most hard-working, dedicated and valuable forces. We think that today something must be defined for the continued work of the Reconstruction Crusade and plans made along those lines. This is what we had in mind as our goal in drawing up our plan.

All in all this plan will have three results:
1. We will to a certain extent free the Reconstruction Crusade from this situation of not having its responsibility clarified and of meddling in parallel work in other executive organizations.
2. To restore the forests and pastures and control agricultural water with one popular and active revolutionary move, there will be a movement created to restore the forests.
3. Without a doubt we must today think of planning in terms of basic production within the framework of agricultural self-sufficiency, instead of paying attention to short-term requests and problems. This plan is aimed at realizing this goal.

Of course, we are not claiming that this plan will solve all the existing problems with regard to water, soil, forests, and natural resources. Rather, we believe that it is necessary to

undertake a new movement that is proud, revolutionary, and popular. Without a doubt our forests will not be restored and our pastures will not be utilized properly unless the goal is in the form of a general, popular crusade. We all know that the Reconstruction Crusade is one of the most popular executive organizations of this revolution by virtue of the things it has done.

Since the basic issue is something that both the Majles and the government regard as sensitive, there have already been many meetings with experts in the Majles and in the government. Both have reached the conclusion that there must be serious and basic thought with regard to the future of the Reconstruction Crusade. The government bill which is to be handed to the Majles is suitable as far as we are concerned. God willing, the combination of the plan and the bill will result in a conclusive decision in this regard.

Engineer Milani, deputy minister of agriculture in charge of plan and programming:

At the start of the first year of the Islamic Republic of Iran Five-Year Plan we must put aside all pretenses and we must speak the truth clearly, so that the country's top-level officials can act with full knowledge when making their decisions. With regard to the discussions that are circulating in decision-making circles as well as in the media, we must pay attention to the fact that the organization is nothing in and of itself. It cannot be the goal. Rather, the organization is the tool for a program, and organizing means arranging the tools in such a way so as to make sure that the program can be carried out properly. if in the past decisions were made with regard to organizing the executive body for various reasons, this was because of a lack of programs and was aimed at solving the existing problems. But today we claim to have as our guide for running the nations affairs the Five-Year Plan which was approved by the Majles. Under no circumstances are we allowed to make rash decisions because, if we do, it will cause an unforgivable disintegration of our plans. We hope that that will not happen.

The nature of agriculture, the details of this program, and the goals, strategies, policies, plans, and programs all cry out in unison. This voice indicates that the various activities involved in agriculture are linked together in an unbreakable way. Any attempt to separate them would cause damage to the country and to the programs. I believe that all those who have a view on agriculture today agree with this. It is obvious that differing views and various decisions are reached precisely because, if the principle was to have a division of agricultural affairs into two ministries, the decisions would have to be made in such a way as to cause the minimum amount of damage.

For example, a decision with regard to planting crops cannot have any meaning without having responsibility for the land that the crop is to be planted on and the most limiting factors, which are water and soil. Setting programs for water and soil without a general outlook on all aspects of their production and provision is not a positive step to take. Officials must carefully keep in mind the issue of water supply, which is part of the natural resources issue. Livestock raising is closely related to the matter of natural resources. The very existence of our pastures and forests depends on the kind of basic decisions that are made with regard to groups of cattle-ranchers, including those who operate inside forest areas and the vast tracts that extend across pasture land. On the other hand the program foresees that livestock in our country will depend on pastures for one-third of their food and that the rest of their feed will come from outside the pastures, from agricultural sources. The program also sees an increase in the value of a section of agriculture, namely fodder production of within the livestock sector. All these points lead to the need for unity between agriculture and animal husbandry on the one hand and natural resources and livestock on the other. These issues will never be separable. On the one hand the cows have to find their food in the pastures and, on the other, we have to lessen their dependence on the pastures to such an extent that we have the time and opportunity to restore these pastures, whose continued destruction threatens our society. Now that we are aware of these truths, as mentioned above, if the political leaders see that there is no choice but to divide responsibilities, they should not be holding scissors in their hands either. They have no choice but to think about the views of the experts and their experiences, to make decisions based on sensible recognition of the facts. What sort of organization would have responsibility for the harvest of produce such as wheat, sugar beet, cotton, rice, or fodder, while another group—for reasons peculiar to themselves such as organizational budgets—changes the price of water every day? Under these circumstances, what meaning will regional crop policies have in the face of organizational policies?

At this time it is worth telling the supporters of coordination between organizations that we still do not have the desired internal coordination within the executive system to guid the programs. Therefore, coordination between organizations on a short-term basis will never be a good basis for these types of senseless decisions.

I believe that any decision that would take the program and its execution out of a unified situation, to be handed to various groups, would increase its vulnerability. We are in circumstances whereby we have widespread poverty in a vast part of the country, namely our countryside. Because of our anti-poverty policies and because of the special attention paid to social justice in the Constitution, without a doubt this should be the axis governing our decisions in terms of economic, social, and cultural issues. We cannot divide the issue of welfare for our villages like a sacrificial camel between various organizations, without a unified policy, while these organizations face huge problems in carrying out their heavy duties in the cities.

Welfare work in the villages is combined with cultural planning. On the one hand because of its unusually large scale, it needs a workforce equal to the inhabitants of

several thousand homes. On the other hand we cannot achieve our goals without mobilizing the population, using crusading methods.

These needs, along with the special conditions already stated, call for a powerful organization such the Reconstruction Crusade with its adequate facilities and the experience that it has in terms of mobilizing the public and whatever it has learned during the years of holy defense. [Words illegible] take over executive programs and credits. Naturally, not paying attention to this important fator of the welfare of our villages, counting this at the same level as other executive tasks, is a mistake which will mean that we will continue to have our current problems in the future.

Engineer Bani-Hashemi, member of the special commission:

The plan submitted to the Majles has the title of a legal plan to separate and designate the duties of the water and agricultural sectors. It has been put together by a special commission comprising selected members from the commissions for agriculture, energy, administration and personnel, and revolutionary organizations.

Keeping in mind the background to the issue of separating duties, removing parallel work done by organizations, and strengthening the agricultural sector, the priority given to the issue within the Five-Year Plan, and the country's economic growth, paying attention to this matter will strengthen the agricultural sphere. The other point is to join those sectors which are linked together, which must expand with planning. In this connection the sectors dealing with natural resources, water, and soil are linked together logically in terms of wanting to restore natural resources, water, and soil for agricultural use. In other words, this comprises areas where there is plenty of water and areas where the water is collected. Within this collection, activities to restore natural resources, better utlization of forests and pastures, and the safeguarding our water-rich areas can be discussed. Creating dams and canals and using the lands that lie beneath dams and canals indicate a unified movement to utilize this country's water, soil, and natural resources.

Based on this same necessity, livestock and crop farming, which are one of the important areas for utilizing the nation's natural resources, come under the responsibility of another ministry.

In other words, we have one ministry that is in charge of water, soil, and natural resources and we have another ministry that is responsible for agriculture and livestock.

Keeping in mind the appropriate facilities that the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade has in terms of organization, expert manpower, machinery, and experience in engineering work as well as the expansion and welfare of various regions, the responsibility for soil, water, and natural resources will fall into its jurisdiction. The responsibility for livestock and crops will fall to the Ministry of Agriculture because of the nature of the ministry.

We hope to utilize the engineering manpower of the Reconstruction Crusade, various sectors of the population, and the people's involvement in expanding natural resources, water, and soil on the way to implementing the Five-Year Plan and the Islamic Republic's long-term projects. We hope to utilize properly this country's water and soil, the 18.5 million hectares of which currently in production are not even being utilized properly. There is potential use for up to 51 million hectares in termms of expanded land and water utilization. We will then be able to take effective steps toward self-sufficiency in agriculture, preventing the destruction of pastures and creating a suitable situation with respect to the environment, which is under serious threat at present.

With regard to issues of utilization we will be able to make maximum use of land, machinery, and livestock through the Ministry of Agriculture, which is in charge of research, growth, and better agriculture methods, in order to use minimum resources.

One of the points that is special in this plan is the issue of the uniform nature of water in this country and the link between water, natural resources, and land. In this connection the Reconstruction Crusade, despite all the problems and obstacles that have existed, at present controls some 50 percent of the increased water resources in the Five-Year Plan.

If the responsibility for the growth of water resources falls into the hands of the Reconstruction Crusade ministry, keeping in mind the experiences and the potential that it has, it will be able to build all the dams proposed in the Five-Year Plan. The concern that is sometimes expressed by the opponents over hydroelectric power in emergency situations, as announced by the Energy Ministry.

In addition to this it is worth mentioning that the main potential for hydroelectrical power in the country exists only in a few places. For example, only in the four areas of Zab-Sirvan in the Sanandaj region, Karkheh, Karun, and Marun, which are areas where water collects, is there power to produce more than 100 megawatts of electricity. The other areas of the country produce less. In connection with the four areas mentioned we could take special programs into consideration, and the remaining regions could have special circumstances to expand agriculture.

The views of Engineer Keshavarz, deputy for the agriculture and natural resources organization:

I think that this plan that has been handed to the Majles contains a discussion about the place of agriculture and another discussion with regard to the place of other ministries and the activities of the government with regard to the place of agriculture. I think there are four basic problems in this plan.

The first basic mistake is that first of all we recognize agriculture to be a unified being which is indivisible, whereas this plan will cause it to break up. It will cause the most basic sector, which is the most important and is in fact the root of agricultural growth, to separate and the

production sectors to remain. Without the organic link between these two issues, we feel that agriculture production cannot have adequate growth or have a centralized management that is in control.

The second problem is that this plan has been based on the conditions and the administrative duties that exist now, whereas the duties and services that exist in the public sector are the results of a series of assumptions and presumptions which were predicted for the government many years ago. To have an advanced agriculture and proper production, many of these descriptions of duties have to be reconsidered. In other words the government must undertake a clean-out in its descriptions of duties. After that you will see that the duties of the government in the area of production will be very much reduced. The government will then take on the duties of policy-making, guidance and support for, which should be presented in very simple terms, with a clear mechanism.

The third criticism is the centralization of unrelated activities. This will bring about a situation when once again decision-making and the management or coordination of this plan and the agriculture sector or its production sector will face many problems in the future. You know that in the past there was always a very tangible lack of coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy, other ministries that worked for agriculture, and the ministry in charge or providing water. It was never clear for what agricultural sector the water was meant, or how other sectors were supposed to provide the water that was needed for agriculture. There were legal commissions, there was a law to coordinate water and agriculture, and there were several directives, but none of these ever mounted to any substantial work. The net result is that, out of about 1 million hectares of land under cover, less than 30 percent is ready and being utilized. This is a problem which will really threaten the resources under our control and one which leads us nowhere.

The fourth point and another serious problem which I think the plan has is the issue of the lack of a basis in agricultural work as compared with others. We have very bad experience with centralizing physical work with other work which perhaps has a support or research nature, both in this country and elsewhere. Experience shows that the decision-maker will always be pulled to one type of work because of attraction or because of preference or the lack of union between the jobs. Without a doubt this pull is always toward physical work. This means that the jobs whose results are difficult to see, such as research, will always be forgotten. Therefore, moving a ministry or an agricultural sector—whether in whole or in part—alongside other work which we physically consider as rural welfare will cause agriculture to be overshadowed and to be damaged a great deal.

I think that after a time this plan will lead us to a point where we will end up looking for other plans. My suggestion is that, before any division of duties or decision-making for the division of duties or the merging of any sector of agriculture, energy, industry, or roads, there must first be a basic reconsideration with a look at the long-term and the principles of the regime. Of course, this will be influenced by the constitution and other long-term projects of the regime. First of all the limits of the government's activity must be defined. After that you will see how many of the existing organizations that we have now have problems or how many of the things that we have done we should not have done at all. We must be pursuing the formation of non-governmental organizations, whether they be in the private sector, or cooperatives, or in any other suitable form. Then we must pay attention to the issue of organization. I believe that to touch an organization that has managed to keep its good value under the present conditions and even throughout the imposed war, one that was able to withstand all the political and economic isolation and even have good economic growth, would create more damage. But in agriculture the results of our decisions are very definite, so we may believe that our decisions are correct. Whereas in an average amount of time we can see if decisions were wrong and that we need more plans for the future.

The text of the legal plan to divide and designate duties of the agricultural sector:

The main reasons for its promotion:

1. The priority of agriculture in connection with the country's economic growth is not possible without the proper use and expansion of the asset of water in the agricultural sector. According to existing figures some 68 billion cubic meters of water is utilized in the agricultural sector and another 4.5 billion cubic meters used for drinking, cleaning, and industry. Of the 130 billion cubic meters of water available for use, 60 billion cubic meters are not used at all. Some 70 percent of available water is wasted because of a lack of proper transport and useage. On the other hand, out of a possible 51 million hectares of arable land, 18.5 million hectares are cultivated and the rest lies fallow. In addition to this, strong management and a center are needed to gather all the water resources together. This calls for the creation of a ministry that would be in charge of all duties with regard to land and water in order to better utilize the country's water and land resources.

2. Attention must be paid to natural resources, including forest and pastures, which are part of our God-given assets. Some 90 million hectares of pasture and 12.4 million hectares of forest cover the lands of this nation. Because of improper use and lack of restoration, they are damaged every day. The land resources of this country are being destroyed and the environment is coming under serious threat. The connection between land and water and natural resources exist because of the relationship between the areas that produce water and the areas where the waters gather. Safeguarding our natural resources and the prevention of damage to dams requires that the ministry in charge of land and water also be in charge of natural resources.

3. The Reconstruction Crusade is a revolutionary organization that was formed on the orders of the imam of ummah—may God expedite his passage to heaven—the founder of the Islamic Republic. It has so far been active in matters relating to land, water, village welfare, military engineering, natural resources, ministerial work, and cattle. It has adequate personnel and facilities, along with strong experience and organizational capabilities equal to the Islamic revolution. At this point in time it can carry out duties with regard to land, water, and natural resources in a good manner. Its other duties should be removed and handed over to the appropriate ministry.

The legal plan to divide and designate the duties of the agricultural sector:

Item 1—According to this law the agricultural sector and water will be divided as stated below, the duties going to the Ministries of Agriculture and Reconstruction Crusade.
a. The Ministry of Agriculture will be in charge of all affairs dealing with crops—planting, storage, and harvest—as well as cattle.
b. The name of the Ministry of Reconstruction Crusade will be changed to the Ministry of Crusade to Expand Water, land, and Natural Resources. All duties dealing with water, land, and natural resources will be given to the said ministry. Throughout this law this ministry will be called by the shortened version of its name—Crusade for Expansion.

Item 2—All affairs concerning water, presently in the hands of the Ministry of Energy, are to be taken away from the Energy Ministry and handed over to the Ministry of Crusade—including all responsibilities, duties, credits, property, promises, personnel, organizations and related companies.

Footnote 1—In order to utilize the potential for hydroelectric power in the country's rivers and water works, the Ministry of Crusade for Expansion has a duty to carry out studies in the areas where waters gather, to identify the proper capacity for the production of hydroelectric power. The study and execution of this project are to be based on plans approved by the country's economic system.

Footnote 2—In addition to the production of hydroelectric power, based on annual contracts, the Ministry of Crusade for Expansion has a duty to organize the production of hydroelectric power at times of emergency, following an announcement by the Ministry of Energy.

Item 3—All affairs relating to the supply of water to villages with more than 150 families and all related duties, responsibilities and property wil be taken from the Ministry of Health and Health Education and transferred to the Ministry of Crusade for Expansion.

Item 4—All duties, responsibilities and personnel of soil fertilization organizations and all affairs relating to land, agricultural engineering, and the Groups of Seven will be taken away from the Ministry of Agriculture and transferred to the Ministry of Crusade for Expansion.

Item 5—All matters relating to natural resources—forests, pastures, and fisheries—including duties, responsibilities, credits, property, and personnel, will be taken away from the Ministry of Agriculture and transferred to the Ministry of Crusade for Expansion.

Item 6—All responsibilities relating to the supply of electricity to villages will be taken from the Ministry of Reconstruction Crusade and transferred to the Ministry of Energy.

Item 7—All duties relating to village industries now in the hands of the Reconstruction Crusade, will be transferred to the Ministry of Industry.

Item 8—All duties relating to village roads now in the hands of the Reconstruction Crusade will be transferred to the Ministry of Roads and Transportation.

Item 9—The Organization for Tribal Affairs in Iran, with all its duties, responsibilities, credits, property, commitments, and personnel, will be taken from the Ministry of Reconstruction Crusade and transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Pakistan

India Allegedly Plans 'Terrorist' Strikes

BK1006002890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 9 (AFP)—Indian military and civil intelligence agencies have planned "terrorist" strikes in major cities of Pakistan, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Saturday [9 June]. The agency quoting unidentified "reliable sources" said the secret agencies had set up camps to carry out "violence through terrorism" in Punjab, Sindh and the Pakistan-administered part of Kashmir. It did not say where the camps had been established. "The government has taken measures to prevent such activities," APP said.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto charged last week that Indian agents had infiltrated ethnic groups in Sindh Province which has been hit by bloody ethnic violence since mid-May. Interior Minister Aitezaz Ahsan also charged that Indian commandos were involved in acts of terrorism in Sindh including attacks on buses.

Pakistan and India have been locked in a tense war of words over disputed Kashmir as Muslim militants battle for independence from New Delhi. More than 600 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the separatist campaign. Saturday's APP report follows the recent exchange of proposals between the two governments on defusing border tension.

All-Party Conference on Sindh Makes Suggestions

BK0706035390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] The all-party conference on peace in Sindh concluded late last night in Karachi. A number of suggestions were made for restoration of peace in the province by the participants representing 22 political parties. The speakers were of the view said the government should ensure evenhandedness in cracking down on criminals and give exemplary punishment to the terrorists and antisocial elements. They said unless the criminals are dealt with sternly, there could be no peace in the province. They demanded that all illegal weapons should be recovered. Sindh Chief Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani presided over the conference.

Bhutto Assures Checking of Sindh 'Lawlessness'

BK0906153990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the rule of lawlessness in Sindh will be effectively checked through the strict measures which are already in force in the province. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said this while talking to a five-member delegation of the People's Social Workers Conference of Larkana District which called on her in Islamabad today. She clarified that the killing of innocent people by terrorists could not be tolerated and such nefarious designs would be strongly foiled. The prime minister added that the maintenance of law and order is the topmost responsibility of the government and the representative government is fully aware of its duties in this connection.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the measures taken by the federal government and the Sindh government would greatly contribute toward controlling the crime rate and the arrested criminals would be given exemplary punishment according to law to ensure lasting law and order. She asked the social workers to rise above petty differences and play their due role.

The delegation presented a memorandum about the local demands which the prime minister heard with full attention and assured them of assessing these demands.

Minister Elaborates on Key Aspects of Budget

BK0806115190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] The new federal budget is aimed at meeting the needs of the society, fulfilling aspirations of the people, and mobilizing resources to respond to the security requirements. This was stated by the minister of state for finance, Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad today to explain the various fiscal measures and taxation proposals announced in the budget last evening. He said the budget is the result of the largest ever exercise undertaken by the present government to take into confidence various sections of society. It gives precedence to the views of elected representatives over bureaucracy.

Mr. Piracha clarified that the issue price of wheat had not been increased and the impression had been created due to some error in certain documents. He said the main effort had been to spare the common man from additional burden, which had been placed on privileged classes as is evidenced from higher tax on luxury cars. The government is fully aware of the social needs of the masses and has more than (?an increase) of 14.5 percent in allocation for health, education, population welfare, and women's development programs against the revised estimates of the outgoing financial year.

About defense, the minister of state for finance said the government is fully alive to the situation and has tried to meet the security requirements of the country in view of the situation on the borders.